

RELIGIOUS SANITY

Religious Sanity

THE PHILOSOPHY OF INDIVIDUAL LIFE

An Abridgment by

A. R. JACKSON

of the Literature of

The Great School of Natural Science

Addressed to

The Progressive Intelligence of the Age

With a Foreword by J. W. NORWOOD

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FOREWORD

The conclusions of the author of this book, the manuscript of which I have read with care, are so in line with findings of the Natural Science represented by the magazine *To You*, that I feel honored to have been asked by him for a Foreword to it.

After years of research and deep study, he presents a picture of the Man of Galilee as the great Teacher of a simple way of life which people living today may utilize to accomplish the "One World" we constantly speak of but which we daily tear down by our individual actions, our group actions and our personal attitudes out of ignorance of the Man of Galilee's teachings.

Another world war that could destroy our present civilizations would probably force future historians to assign its cause to "Religion"—a word of such vague import, today, as to permit of several hundred vague definitions. Mr. Jackson's definition is not at all vague, for it is the same as that taught by the greatest personage of Christianity, though He wrote no single word of the canonical scripture himself. Religion in that sense was, is, the individual Way of Life a man chooses for himself.

There was, and still is extant, all the method and technique taught by this remarkable Man for living an individual life as an active builder of, and in the world of, human brotherhood. But you, as an individual, must do the work and use the technique yourself to become such a builder. You cannot read it into yourself or receive it by proxy. You do the thing correctly, and the result proves itself to you. No other can do this for you.

Your mistakes in interpretation and your correction of the method and technique must be your own affair, if you would convert faith and hope and what somebody else has advised into knowledge and wisdom. Whatever your creed, color or politics, there is a definite and very personal job open to you, namely to discover for yourself the happiness of knowing you are part of a world that needs builders, and that you are qualified to do your share of the building.

More remarkable than miracles or superstitious belief in the supernatural is the naturalism of the Jesus who knew about

life in its physical, spiritual and psychic aspects from personal experience. If the Jesus portrayed by the author of this brochure is believed by some to have been a God, a cultural and ethical teacher by others, a prophet by the Mohammedans second only to Mohammed, a minor Buddha by Buddhists, a communist by communists, or a pioneer psychologist by scientists, why not utilize this universal respect and reverence in building a peaceful world for the "King of Peace"?

All these opinions of the Teacher have so long obscured the real value of his teachings that one wonders, in reading this volume of information about him, why the idea has not been adopted before.

"Churchianity," in groups or in individuals, could afford to abandon its struggle for position, for preeminence and for power long enough to allow *Christianity* to purify the world, it would seem. Or must mankind do this without help of those addicted to "Churchianity"?

There is an old Talmudic story about several co-owners of a boat that was caught in a terrible storm. All of them bailed hard to keep themselves afloat, except one man, who knew a better way, he thought. He seized an ax and began chopping a hole in the bottom to let the water out as fast as it came in. Others screamed at him and threatened to heave him overboard. He threatened them with his ax, "Keep away and attend to your own bailing. This is my part of the boat and I'll do with it as I please."

Could the industrial world, the political world, or any other part of the whole world in which we all live not afford to abandon its particular brand of "Churchianity," and realize that we are all in the same boat? Assuredly this was the teaching of Jesus.

These simple ideas are those, I think, most excellently illustrated by the author's proofs from the original Christian teachings themselves. They were spread, he finds, by the Galilean prophet in India, Persia, and other lanes along the route back to Judea—and death.

If there is a word of caution to be given the reader, it is this: The most ancient or the most modern legend, written or oral, including books of history, is after all but assumed knowl-

edge, not actual proof. George Washington's cherry tree and ax were a devoutly believed legend until its author confessed late in life it was meant only as a moral story for children. So with the apparently conflicting stories of "sacred writ" concerning Jesus and his teachings. Who after many generations now can swear to their authenticity or veracity? How can an orphan swear to father or mother? Or an American who has never seen Europe, swear to its existence or vice versa?

Yet, there is a knowledge born of the keener senses and supported by logic that enables the finder of facts to piece them together into a truer whole than can less alert and studious persons. Mr. Jackson has used such knowledge.

J. W. NORWOOD

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Magazine, presently Associate Editor*

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INTRODUCTION

A condensation of the Harmonic Series of books (eight in all), and other literature of Natural Science and the Philosophy of Individual Life, is contained in this volume with a few words added by the Abridger.

Brief and inadequate though this abridgment is, the reader will be able to get a glimpse of benefits that may be derived from, and incalculably multiplied by, a careful reading of the complete work.

The profound and searching knowledge of the workings of the human soul flow from the *Great School of the Masters*—the Great Central Source and Reservoir of Knowledge (Religious, Philosophical, Moral, Physical, Spiritual and Psychical) which the best intelligences of all ages have intuitively sensed and definitely accepted as the great beneficent, constructive, uplifting and progressive influence in the Evolution of Mankind from spiritual infancy and darkness to soul maturity and illumination.

Jesus was definitely identified with the Great School of the Masters, wherein He received His education, and from which He obtained His commission to give His Message to the World.

The Great School of the Masters as it exists upon the earth at this time is but the present and last link of a great unfinished chain (Jesus was a link in that chain), by means of which the crystallized results of the ages past are brought down to us of this day and generation. You who shall receive these results in good faith, and who of your own free will and accord enlist your services in the Great Work of Emancipation, will constitute the next regular link in the same great chain. If you are wise enough and strong enough to avail yourself of the *scientific* results therein placed before you, it is possible for you to achieve the most highly beneficial results.

J. E. Richardson, TK., himself a Great Master, accomplished the difficult task of reducing this great accumulation of knowledge to a simple and unambiguous expression in the language of his own people.

Natural Science is *exact* knowledge of the *facts* of Nature (religious, philosophical, moral, psychical, spiritual and physical), classified and systematized—the *fruitage* of the *best* intelligences of *all* ages, from the cradle of Humanity to the immediate present.

Pure Christianity is that limited portion of Natural Science in existence up to the time of Jesus, which he found possible to impart to Mankind under the handicaps of his day.

“Churchianity” consists of varying amounts of Pure Christianity, diluted and overshadowed, obscured and minimized in importance, by persistent obtrusion of legend, myth, fable, exaggerations, dogmatism, ceremonials and rituals.

Natural Science includes, it will be noted therefore, not only all Pure Christianity but also the fundamental Truths as taught by *all* the Great Masters of the past, plus all the Truths uncovered subsequently, right up to the present time—the immediate present.

Natural Science today, is prepared to state, explain and demonstrate another fundamental Principle: the Universal Principle of Polarity. Philosophy based upon that Science is today prepared to teach the value of Individual Life and the importance of the relation of Man and Woman, Truths which have never yet been properly or publicly explained by theology, science, philosophy or law.

You, coming to a full realization of what this knowledge means, will feel a sense of profound gratitude that the door of Definite Knowledge is opened to you, and that you are permitted to share in the knowledge that will “make us free.”

RELIGIOUS SANITY

*“Fools Deride,
Philosophers Investigate”*

1 YOUR SOUL

What is the primary *purpose* of the Soul?

How is this purpose best served?

“Soul” (Ego, Individual Intelligence, Essential Self) is the highest element of individual being which is back of all the phenomena by means of which it expresses and manifests itself on any or all the planes of life, spiritual as well as physical.

2 POSSESSIONS

Nature evolves a Man.

Man, co-operating with Nature, evolves a “Master.”

The Master Man, co-operating with and controlling the forces, activities and processes of Nature, evolves a——?

As an individual intelligence, or soul, every human being enters upon the business of life with the following possessions which constitute his stock in trade:

one physical body

one spiritual body

one consciousness

one will

one full set of appetites, passions, emotions, desires, impulses, ambitions and aspirations.

With this equipment and invoice of stock he enters upon the business of life, which, from the standpoint of a Soul, is that of accumulating experience and enlarging his store of knowledge.

The value of knowledge is that it can be applied to one's individual Good and Greater Happiness.

The importance of knowledge may be judged from the fact that its objective is the building of one's *Temple*—The Temple of Character *wherein one must abide forever*.

The Soul manifests itself upon the physical plane through its physical body.

The Soul manifests itself upon the spiritual plane through its spiritual body.

Individual Consciousness is the essential foundation of all our individual efforts and all our individual progress. Its possibilities have never yet been reached. The entire problem of Evolutionary Development, in one sense, is but the problem of how to extend individual Consciousness, and thus enlarge the field of its operations.

Will is the Soul's *Giver*. This Attribute enables the Soul to balance Nature's account by returning to Nature and its Fellow-men an equivalent for all it receives through the *Receiving* (Consciousness) Attribute. As Man is bound by the Law of Personal Responsibility, he must possess an Attribute which enables him to balance his account.

The Set of Appetites, Passions, Emotions, Desires, Impulses, Ambitions and Aspirations impels us to action in our individual search for satisfactions, and furnishes the Soul the data of experience from which to determine its course of action and line of procedure.

Soul Powers embrace the phenomena of Reason, Memory, Comparison, Calculation, Abstraction and Introspection. A Soul may cultivate or neglect its own Powers, just as it may cultivate or neglect its physical body. Under the Law of Evolution each one of us is bound by the most exalted obligation that could be fixed upon us: (a) to make use of all our faculties, capacities and powers; (b) to make a right use of them in such manner as to conform our lives to the *Constructive* Principle of Nature; (c) to do this to the full limit of our own individual abilities; and (d) to do it all the time. The intelligent and right use of possessions under Nature's Law means that they must be used for the Highest Good.

It is Man who accelerates or impedes his own progress under

Nature's Plan. It is Man alone who hastens or delays individual fulfillment of Nature's ultimate Purpose.

Nature demonstrates that an individual Man comes to be what he is by reason of the struggle in which his own intelligence is forever engaged. Man always becomes that which he really *knows*. Every Man must live up to his highest concept of Equity, Justice and Right; those in error must suffer sooner or later for their *ignorance*; those in the Right will eventually reap their *reward*.

Natural Science holds the interesting concept that each and every normal Individual Human Being is, in miniature, a complete replica of the entire universe. "The *greater* of the universe is the Macrocosm, and Man is the Microcosm." This conveys the suggestion that Man, as an Individual Intelligence, contains within himself the *essence* of the entire Universe; and He is often spoken of as the "Microcosm," or "Little World," containing within himself alone a complete and perfect epitome of the "Macrocosm," or "Greater World," the Universe; and hence, all there is of value in the Universe of knowledge. By a "proper study" of himself, he attains to the evolutionary status of Self-Completion and earns Nature's inevitable reward, therefore, which is *Individual Completion* and *Happiness*.

3 NATURE'S DUALITY

Duality is expressed in every department of Nature. "Construction" and "Destruction": these terms give expression to a duality of *extreme* opposition.

Human Intelligence intuitively senses a great fundamental Law which runs throughout all the manifestations of Nature.

The application of this great Law to the ethics of human life constitutes the basis of all Religious and Philosophic systems of the past and likewise of the present.

The limitations of Human Intelligence, seeking to grasp and comprehend this Law in its entirety and apply it as a rule and guide of conduct in the daily lives of men, are responsible for all the sectarianism of both religion and philosophy, as well as the variations in governmental systems and policies throughout all the Nations of Earth.

The Law itself is a unit in essence. It manifests itself to Human Intelligence in its twofold aspect as one of the most stupendous and comprehensive dualities of all Nature—the duality of Construction and Destruction.

Ethically considered, there are but two fundamental Principles in Nature. In their relation to Individual Life, the one is constructive, and the other is destructive. Every fact of Nature, whether scientific, philosophic, political, religious, or whatever its character, is a direct manifestation of one or the other of these two fundamental principles in operation.

4 DESTRUCTIVE PRINCIPLE

That which dispels, disintegrates, dissipates or destroys any of Nature's constructive *Individualities*, whether they be physical, spiritual, mental, moral or psychical, is the Destructive Principle of Nature in Individual Life.

We recognize this as the Law of Retribution, or Retributive Justice, in accordance with the *Discords* of Evolution. To this great Law of Justice is referable all that there is of individual atrophy, weakness, enervation, sickness, suffering, sorrow, hate, fear, disease, dissolution, disintegration, decay, unhappiness and death. This, indeed, is the domain of Nature's retributive punishments to Individual Intelligence for disobedience of Nature's Evolutionary Principle.

5 CONSTRUCTIVE PRINCIPLE

The great fundamental Law or Principle of Nature back of the process which integrates inorganic matter, organizes vegetable and animal matter into living, organic bodies, renews and sustains individual life, and constitutes the essential foundation of all development and growth—physical, spiritual, moral, mental and psychical—is Nature's Constructive Principle of Nature in Individual Life.

We recognize this as the Law of Compensation, or Compensatory Justice, in accordance with the *Harmonics* of Evolution.

To this Great Law of Justice is referable all that there is of individual growth, development, progress, strength, health, energy, life, love and happiness, both here and hereafter. This is the domain of Nature's compensatory rewards to Individual Intelligence for obedience to Nature's Evolutionary Principle.

The impelling Principle, basically involved in the process of evolution, is the Universal Law of Polarity which impels every Entity to seek vibratory correspondence with another like Entity of opposite Polarity. Nature's Purpose, concerning each Individual Intelligence, is the *completion* of the Individual and involves *individual* completion and Happiness. The Primary Purpose of each Individual Intelligence is *self-completion* and involves the struggle for Happiness. This basic Law of Evolution is known to science as the Constructive Principle of Nature, and this fundamental Law, or Principle, is satisfied when the fundamental achievement of both Nature and an Individual is accomplished.

To an Intelligent Soul is specially assigned the task of acquiring Knowledge, of acquiring Power, of exercising Love, and of attaining Happiness.

The ultimate goal of individual achievement under and in accordance with the operation of Nature's Constructive Principle is, so far as Science knows, *Individual Immortality* and

Perfect Happiness in "the fulfilling of the Law." This is the achievement which opens to the Soul the "Gates of Paradise." And this is the Way of Life.

The Constructive Principle builds up the Individuality and increases the degree of intelligent unfoldment. Because of this fact, it is recognized as the Principle of Right in individual life. The Destructive Principle tears down the Individuality and reverses the process of intelligent unfoldment. Because of this fact it is recognized as the *Principle of Wrong* in Individual Life.

6 THE PROBLEM

The Great Problem of Individual Life is that of identifying the two principles in their relation to the objective *facts* of Nature, so that we may be able to conform to the one and avoid the other. We are never confronted with any problem in life until and unless we have the ability and strength to solve it—if we will.

Does a kind and beneficent Father, interested in His children's welfare and well-being, take undue advantage of them?

7 KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge: Facts of Nature, identified, verified and acknowledged by Human Intelligence. Or, knowledge is a Soul's awareness and understanding of *facts* of Nature.

It requires knowledge on the part of the Individual to locate and determine the line that establishes the boundaries of the Constructive Process and differentiates it from the Destructive.

It requires the most *exact* and *definite* knowledge. Such knowledge can be obtained only by personal experience and personal effort.

No Man is in a position to understand or appreciate how almost infinitesimally small and seemingly insignificant, by comparison, is the volume of his own definite personal knowledge, until he undertakes to write out in definite form a crystallized statement of those things he can say truly he knows. Then it is, for the first time, that he becomes clearly conscious how meager is his store of actual knowledge, and how conspicuous is his *intellectual poverty*. Recognition of this, however, points the way to a much broader understanding, and a more just appreciation, of all mankind. It teaches a deeper respect for the lives and experiences of our fellowmen, admonishes us to a more generous sympathy with them in all their honest efforts, and stimulates in us a more healthful desire to increase our own store of exact and definite knowledge.

The accumulation of knowledge constitutes the initial step which all must travel who hope to arrive at the goal of Wisdom.

Intelligence, Morality and Knowledge are all essential elements of spiritual growth and development; it requires the three, in relative combination in the life of an individual, to determine his spiritual gravity. The Spiritual Development of an Individual is measured by the Intelligence with which he applies his *Knowledge* to the accomplishment of Moral Purposes. There can be no such thing as Moral Accountability or Personal Responsibility without knowledge. Under the Great Law, Men and Women are Morally Accountable and Personally Responsible for their acts and conduct, to the full limit of their individual knowledge, other things being equal.

Evolution of the individual involves constantly increasing knowledge. Knowledge requires personal effort. At a stated point in his labor, represented by accumulated knowledge, man will have the *Fruit of his Work*. He will not have to depend on preference or indulgences to get his reward. He will not have to ask any politician, or priest, or preacher, or commissar, whether he will obtain what he has earned. He does not have to guess

at the reward for his personal effort, because he will know that the Law of Compensation must and will be satisfied.

By the right use of acquired knowledge, man enhances his own personal enjoyment of life and living. Or, by wrongly using it, he hinders it.

He who has found the Fulcrum of Life, and remains with it, is incapable of doing wrong; his desires are but reflections of the Laws he should obey.

No individual effort to acquire knowledge and experience for beneficent purposes is ever lost. In the great Book of Nature is reported every act of true and unselfish service in the Cause of Humanity. And every effort has its specific and adequate reward in the preparation of the Individual Soul for advancement to higher planes of life, to greater accomplishment and happiness.

No Man will ever reach the goal of True Happiness, and the acquisition of the Power which the Right Use of knowledge alone can give, without the accumulation of adequate knowledge.

The Purpose is to establish beyond all question the true relation which mere dogmas and beliefs sustain to actual knowledge, and to suggest the relative value and importance of each to the Individual.

Knowledge is valueless except to serve a present and practical purpose. The important knowledge that Man should acquire from "The Great Central Source" consists of the following: (a) that he survives death (Knowledge of a life to come is valuable to an earthly man in so far as it furnishes the motive and inspiration of a higher and better earthly life); (b) that this earthly life affords opportunities that do not obtain in spiritual life; (c) that earthly life is made up of a series of activities which appear to have endless consequences; and (d) that it is the life here which determines the life "there." It is the act here which imposes recompense or penalty upon a Soul in the spiritual life. It is the foundation here which supports the superstructure "there."

In due time Man finds that the same Law of Individual Unfoldment and Progress obtains there as here, namely the Law of

Individual Effort. He learns that the spiritual life is as truly a life of action as the physical, but with multiplied intensity. He observes that evolution proceeds in that life from the exact point to which he attained in this. He learns that the spiritual life is but a continuation of the physical, except upon a higher and finer plane of intensified activity, and that the Laws of Spiritual Life are but a natural extension of the Laws of the Physical; that there is nowhere a break in the perfect continuity of Nature; that nowhere does this Law of Continuity appear more wonderful than in the evolution and development of Individual Life, on both planes of existence.

The only possessions Man takes with him when he leaves this earth plane are his knowledge and experience and finer instruments for use in a finer life and under finer conditions. All physical, material treasures and "possessions" are left behind.

No Man would waste his opportunities in self-commiseration, if he could but know what the constructive Law of Hope, Faith, Courage and Cheerfulness can do for him even yet, "in the physical body." If he but understood how these set in motion the active forces that "make for good," if he but knew how an individual, endowed with these attributes, attracts to himself beneficent influences (both in the body and out), which make for social content and material prosperity of the individual who harbors them, he would turn from his self-pity with a joy in his heart and a benediction upon his lips for the blessings within his reach.

The Great Law of Compensation has just as many rewards for the Courageous and the Faithful as it has penalties for the Weak and the Selfish.

8 SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, MORALITY, TRUE RELIGION, WISDOM

Science is exact knowledge of the facts of Nature, classified and systematized.

Philosophy is the conclusions which men in their search for knowledge of Truth have drawn from the facts of science.

True Religion is the application of the facts of Science and the conclusions of philosophy to Individual Life and Conduct.

Wisdom is the Right application of Knowledge and the Right Use of Power.

Natural Science has discovered and wrought out a definite and scientific system of Moral Principles. It has proven its accuracy and sufficiency in every conceivable way. Transmuted into actual, vital, constructive energies and forces, these Moral Principles build up the Temple of Human Character.

Natural Science has formulated a definite system. It is based upon experiments and demonstrations through personal experience. It constitutes a scientific formulary. It is constructive in its essential nature. It is evolutionary in its essential character. Its Purpose is the development of Constructive Spirituality. It results in Spiritual Independence and *Mastership*.

It is not a single or sporadic experiment. It does not come to one in the midst of great Soul demonstrations, only to depart when the psychic convulsions are over. It is not a mystical or indefinite experience subject to interpretations. It is an attainment which comes only as a result of intelligent effort in definite lines. It is a work of science. When once accomplished, it is a definite possession of the Soul.

The Process of development begins with a study of Moral Principles. Morals, as a distinct term, refers to those definite and specific Principles and Rules of Individual Action, Procedure and Conduct, by the conscious and intelligent observance of which Man may conform his life to the Constructive Principle of his Being and, by maintaining the harmony of that relation, thereby incidentally solve all those more detailed and seemingly

complex problems of his relations and obligations to his fellow-men and Nature.

The Practice of Moral Principles is the Living of a Life in strict conformance with the terms, conditions and requirements of those Principles and Rules of Conduct whereby Man satisfies the requirements of the Constructive Principle of Nature, and maintains that established harmonic relation in his Soul.

NOTE: There is a difference between the definition of Morals by Science and that of the standard works of lexicology. The scientific definition describes a man who conforms his life to a “Principle of Nature,” while the other refers to one who conforms his life to certain “Articles of Faith, or Belief,” which have been formulated by his fellowmen, and which *may or may not* be in conformity with the “Principle of Nature” referred to.

The Ethical Section of the Great Work constitutes a foundation of Moral Principles for the student to stand upon, in order that he may bring his life into perfect conformity with Nature’s Constructive Principle. Only when he gets upon this foundation and establishes himself there is it of any value to him in his future efforts towards evolutionary development.

9 “CHURCHIANITY”

Every Sect and every Denomination teaches its own Concept of God, or Nature. Everyone’s religion is the *right* one—so everyone thinks.

If the now two hundred fifty or more different, so-called Christian denominations acted only on *known facts* as taught by Jesus, *and subsequent Facts brought to light by Natural Science*, they would then *all* be in agreement, permitting of One World or the Universal Brotherhood of Men, the fundamental doctrine of the Nazarene.

The Power and Intelligence which created all things also

established definite Laws for the harmonious government of the Universe and Man. When these Laws are known and understood and taught and applied, everything goes well. There is urgent and inspiring desire for definite knowledge of life, both of the here and the hereafter. Many brave, earnest, intelligent and thoughtful men and women are turning away from the dry husks of dogmatic theology, in search of Real Food for the Soul in the form of definite and exact knowledge of Individual Life and of How to Live it, that they may "Know the Law." They long for something more satisfying than the empty theories which have been handed down, and which *unthinkingly* have been accepted as representing their own beliefs.

The Church, it would seem, has failed to make the people think with a view to action leading to greater spiritual unfoldment, and this results in the failure of the people to realize their legitimate possibilities. The Church should render a Service to meet the needs of men for knowledge of the Truth for their guidance in the Living of a Life—a philosophy of informed common sense. The effect of its teachings upon behavior, conduct and feeling determines whether its teachings are practical and beneficial.

It seems that in many of the Institutional Religions the effort has been made to devise a plan or scheme for transferring man's responsibilities from himself to shoulders other than his own. It is highly important that Man should be taught that it is not possible to circumvent the Laws of God, or Nature. If Man is led to believe that Jesus and the Masters before Him, or any other Power, can take away the sin of the world, it will discourage his own effort and prevent him from doing his best.

Among the many who accept the doctrines and dogmas of their various Churches as the rule and guide of their lives, there are considerable numbers who believe that, through the potency of their Church, or the efficacy of their Creed, or the magical intervention of their priests and potentates, a way will be found whereby they shall be able to evade or avoid the natural consequences of their wrongdoing. Many of them are honest in their convictions that the merit of their religion lies mainly in the

fact that it does thus enable them to evade and avoid their Personal Responsibility.

To the extent that the Church's tenets and ceremonials open the way for priests, or preachers, or ministers, to exploit the evil and vicious tendencies of human nature, or where the central purpose and intent of the Church would seem to be to develop or invent ways and means to impress upon its members the conviction that it has the power to relieve them from the awful burden of the original obligation and from the spiritual and psychical consequences of the Great Law of Personal Responsibility, to that extent the Church contravenes the purposes and intents of God, or Nature. This is “*Churchianity*,” not *Christianity*.

The Individual can no more defy the Law of Personal Responsibility, and at the same time escape its natural and inevitable consequences, than he can violate any other Law of Nature without having to suffer the penalty of such violation.

Some so-called Christian Churches have taken on many traits, or peculiarities, entirely different from the real Jesus' teachings, consequently, among these traits and peculiarities, the Principles He taught so earnestly are hardly to be found any longer; and the more one learns of what many organized religions teach, the less he knows about the all-essential Principles taught by the Great Masters. Judging from the results, it would seem that the True Christian Religion has been but little understood and only taught in a superficial manner.

The effectiveness of the words of Jesus has been neutralized by some of the job-holding Churchmen themselves, especially by the older and higher officers, who are afraid, apparently, that a change in technique will retire them or diminish the glory of their antique notions. No religious organization is ever more in danger than when the talent that should be consecrated to Moral Teachings has no occupation but political intrigue or personal advancement. “Talent unhonored is talent at war with Man.”

The pure Christian Message for nearly two thousand years has been overshadowed, obscured and minimized in importance

by the persistent obtrusion of legend, myth, fable and exaggerations. Is it to be supposed that irreligious communism would have a chance against world opinion today, if the Church had been teaching Known Facts and Truths for the past nearly two thousand years, instead of theological jugglings in an effort to reconcile contradictions and irreconcilable paradoxes? Is the Church now paying the penalty for its neglect of the Great Responsibility which it assumed when it undertook to shape the lives of the people of the world?

Religious organizations, embosomed in wealth, silver and gold, complex ritual, extravagant ceremonials, beads, candle-burning, confessions, holy sticks, masses, gorgeous vestments, jeweled chalices, magnificence of pomp and splendor, extraordinary and extravagant gatherings for publicity, imposing structures, riches and luxury, have no virtue from these things; these do not transform; these add nothing to one's Spiritual Unfoldment, nor do they raise the level of one's Morality. Neither to priest, preacher or pupil do they lend an iota of the kind of Power possessed by Jesus, who had none of these things, but who could say, "Rise and Walk," and it was so. To transform means to regenerate, and regeneration comes by trial, by personal effort, by self-control, by learning and by living a life in conformity with the Principles of Morality.

Reading the Bible, abstinence from fish or fowl, offerings to priests or sacrificing to the gods, self-mortification by heat or cold, and many such penances performed for the sake of immortality will not cleanse a man. A knowledge of, and a conforming to, Nature's Laws will. Also it should be noted that Prayer can be destructive as well as constructive. The book, "Who Answers Prayer," will be found to be most enlightening and helpful.

"He who fills his lamp with water will not dispel the darkness, and he who tries to light a fire with rotten wood will fail." "Nor can anyone be free from a wretched life without knowing and living according to the Laws of Nature." And the "know-how" makes this comparatively easy and a pleasure and privilege, instead of a penalty.

The Master Jesus conducted an active ministry in fellowship

with “publicans and sinners.” He did not found an order, nor adopt a distinctive garb. While He did not exalt Himself, neither did He abase Himself with shaven head and begging bowl. He preached Temperance without austerities. He neither condemned the natural activities of men, nor disparaged natural human relations. The Church He attempted to found was not built by hands, nor was it symbolized by priestly garb or by priestly authority. The fundamental doctrine of the Nazarene was the Universal Brotherhood of Man. The fundamental characteristics of the Man were Compassion, Pity and Love.

Magic words, or verbosity, do not make one holier, more oracular, more highly moral, or spiritually powerful. Men ambitious for leadership have always in the past destroyed humane and altruistic Movements, because they distract the attention and energy from the Cause to the Individual. Work for Humanity requires genuine Humility, because successful accomplishment comes only when the Individuals back of it have no personal ambitions to satisfy. Successful accomplishment is built on a Humility that has no under-props of petty Pride or Vanity.

The teachings and preachings of many of the modern religionists appear to represent attempts on the part of some of the leaders to cover up their lack of knowledge concerning the facts of spiritual Nature and, in some instances, even a deliberate attempt to cover what facts they may have under a mass of superstitions, rituals, ceremonials and beliefs, and thereby keep their followers under subjugation through fear.

The student of Natural Science, however, comes into possession of demonstrated facts of Nature, not theories. He becomes familiar with the faculties, capacities and powers with which he has been endowed by Nature. He learns to hold before his consciousness the fact that he is potentially a perfect entity, — physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally, and that, through the constructive use of these capacities and powers, he can approach and demonstrate Reality. Jesus said it was possible to become perfect. “Be ye therefore perfect, as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5).

For the accomplishment of whatever is Great and Lofty and

Beneficial, the clear perception of Truths is the first requisite—Truths adjusted to the object desired. When we once perceive the Truths that are in us and around us, we can the better determine where we are heading. But the perception of Truths is disturbed by many causes—Vanity, Passion, Fear, Indolence in ourselves, Ignorance of the fitting means with which to accomplish the desired ends. It should be the Responsibility of those who set themselves up to mold the minds of the masses, to prepare the mind of Man, for no Truth can be seen by the unprepared mind any more than the sun can dawn upon the midst of night. What is the Duty, Obligation and Responsibility of the Church?

Everyone has faculties that may attain to surpassing power, that may rank him among those who leave behind them an enduring influence, worshipped wherever Beauty and Truth are comprehended, wherever the Soul is sensible of a Higher World than that in which matter struggles for crude and incomplete existence.

But to make available these faculties, we must learn to concentrate upon Worthy objects. The heart must not be troubled by Fear or Anger or Vanity; if it is not, the mind may remain active. Our present teachers seem to cause us to wander about aimlessly.

"If you want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, you must become like a little child," said Jesus, which simply means that there must be an open mind, and freedom from spiritual pride. It would seem that modern religious and secular education has not, and does not, develop spiritual or intellectual Humility. On the contrary, it would seem to encourage spiritual pride. Men and Women, consciously or not, come to feel that things must happen the way they have been trained to expect them to happen, and yet, the voice of God is forever whispering, "Behold I make all things new." Useful effort results when the Soul recognizes and exemplifies its True Relation to its fellows, without bias, egotism or vanity.

Pride of intelligence expresses itself in the form of dogmatism and a presumptuous contempt for the honest convictions of others, while intellectual vanity clothes itself in the form and

spirit of egotistic speculations and a thrusting of the personality upon the attention of others. Whenever this is the case, there is danger of offending the intelligence, dignity and conscience of others, and of losing their sympathy with and interest in our message, because the message is overshadowed, obscured and minimized in importance by the persistent obtrusions of our personality. To avoid this we must keep the immutable and uncompromising Law of Truth forever before us.

As a result of these weaknesses of human nature, oftentimes the most glaring fallacies are stated as unqualified Truths, and the merest fancies are stated as established facts. The natural consequence is that the over-credulous student is forever in danger of being led into an ambush of the gravest errors. The ultra-skeptical student is, on the other hand, in danger of having his skepticism increased, and a barrier of hostility and unbelief is thereby erected between him and the Truth which he most desires, and of which he is in immediate search.

The clearest open channel for the Jesus Christ teachings is to be found among the “Poor in Spirit” who are not too intellectually vain to keep their minds amenable to Reason or simple Logic, and Honest and Earnest search and Desire for definite knowledge. Said Jesus, “Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” This in a manner means that we get at all times just what we deserve, or just what we are ready for. Historically, is it not a fact that God, or Nature, has put the mighty from their seats and exalted the humble and unknown? God always produces a Man to offset the self-appointed “wise men” of the day—to show them the path they have lost through egotism, through having given only half the Truth, the other half having been given in order to please, let us say, the King, the Press, or the Public, upon whom they are dependent.

It is in the spirit of Humility, and in the recognition of their actual place in the world, that all Great Discoverers find their highest joy. It is the joy of Service that is theirs, the loftiest aspiration that can fire the heart of Man, making him accept with thankfulness his part as an implement in the hands of

"The Great Artificer," and filling him with love and reverence for the work in the completion of which he has been used as an instrument.

Every Human Being possesses intelligence, which, however, varies in quality and degree; this might be described as running the gamut from a deep sleep to one of full awakening.

Just as the flow of vital energy in the physical body is retarded by the accumulation of toxins that have not been eliminated, so the flow of intelligence may be said to be retarded by the accumulation of fixed, old and obsolete beliefs that the individual refuses to eliminate from his mind. Hence, an individual may be educated to the point where he is acclaimed an authority on a certain subject, and yet have his mental blackboard so filled with the conclusions of other so-called authorities, conclusions which he assumes to be true, that he refuses even to consider that anything could possibly be true outside of what he thinks he knows. He has developed a rigid and fixed mind and his education becomes a phoney substitute for Intelligence and Wisdom. His intelligence ceases to be progressive, and becomes static. He is truly "at rest."

The Progressive Intelligence, however, does not hesitate to eliminate and dissolve any ideas that appear obsolete, and it is forever on the alert to replace them with new ones that appear to be true and up to date. In so doing, however, he is often branded a renegade or radical by his static brothers, because he refuses to "stay put."

Who can forget the experience of Colonel "Billy" Mitchell, who was ridiculed and dishonored because he tried to convince the so-called "War Authorities" of our government that an airplane could sink a battleship, and that the next war would be fought in the air?

Events are transpiring daily that would have been classed as crazy and impossible by so-called authorities a few years ago. Almost overnight the accepted pattern of war was changed. It took awakened, progressive intelligence to make the change, and it took a world war to stir up that intelligence and give it a chance to operate.

When Progressive Intelligence rules, Real Religion will appear, and the present dogmatic doctrines, with their ceremonies and rituals and extravagances, will be discarded.

Phoney Wisdom may well be supplanted by intelligent teachers who are qualified to impart instruction as to the *Facts* of Life and Nature. Blind Faith will be supplanted by Exact Knowledge; Morality will take on a new scientific meaning in place of the phoney, man-made interpretation.

The Ancient Sect was noted for strict adherence to traditional rituals, and the officials who read and explained the Law to the people were supposed to be religious men. They held high positions in the Church, but seemed to fail to understand the nature or importance of the teachings of Jesus. They retarded Him, obstructed and impeded His efforts. This shows that it is possible for so-called leaders in the Church to be so obsessed with secular considerations that they ignore the real Truth which Jesus came to teach. The Pharisees and Officials who were supposed to be the teachers of the Law and responsible for the welfare of the people, and who posed as authorities and “representatives of God,” finally put Jesus to death, because they knew that the Truth, as Jesus taught it, would depose them from their high positions of authority and prestige.

These persecutors of Jesus were supposedly the devout and pious welfare leaders of the people, and the molders of world opinion. Are the religious and welfare leaders of today teaching the Principles that Jesus taught, or are they substituting their own?

Today’s Religionists seem to be concerned with “saving the Soul” and providing a heaven for the people when they die. But people are interested in what is happening to them today, and any religion that does nothing about today’s problems is not a practical religion. “Futurity hast thou given me, but thou takest from me the moment.”

Knowledge is valueless except it be made to serve a present and practical purpose. Knowledge that does not have a direct bearing upon the present daily life of an Individual is an incumbrance, and not an acquisition of any value. It does not

matter how unusual or wonderful that knowledge in itself may be.

Knowledge of the Past is not enough. When the outmoded or mistaken policies of the Past are inadequate to a progressive future, we must be willing to break with the past. The Bible, if correctly interpreted, will work, and if it does not work, it is not correctly understood and taught.

True Religion means conforming one's life to a "Principle of Nature," not to doctrines and theologies devised in the minds of men who seek to control the lives of others. There is no record of theology or doctrines to be found in the Bible. Theological jugglings were the work of Churchmen trying to reconcile contradictions and irreconcilable paradoxes.

Science is uncovering new facts of Nature by leaps and bounds. When these facts are brought to the consciousness of the masses, they will be used to solve new problems, new situations. It would seem to be the Duty, Obligation and Responsibility of the Church to ascertain these facts and bring them to the attention of all mankind. But why is not the effort made?

The single virtue of Truthfulness could make this world a happy paradise. It does not pay to be behind the times. The penalty in unnecessary suffering experienced throughout the world today could be spared if the Truth, the Principles which Jesus worked so hard to make clear to Mankind, were emphasized, as well as the important Truths *uncovered subsequent to His time*.

Down through history, "Achilles' Heel" has become an expression in our language describing a vulnerable point in something otherwise invulnerable—a weak spot in an otherwise impregnable position.

The "Achilles' Heel" of the great majority of humanity—of us —usually is lack of understanding and application of basic moral principles; perhaps there is too much theory and not sufficient practice of these Principles, or perhaps there is a general understanding of their application, but insufficient detailed knowledge. So at odd times in the midst of living what is considered a good life, an individual has an experience which

reveals the "Achilles' Heel," the inability to apply principle in a given, specific circumstance. The consequences growing out of such a situation are apt to be destructive.

This brings to attention the ever constant need of increasing the knowledge of Principles, the need to widen the scope of understanding and extend the horizons of application. There is no end to this task, for Nature's basic Principles are applicable to every condition and circumstance of living, both on the physical and the spiritual planes, and on into the psychical, as well.

There is Law and Order in the Universe; there is evidence everywhere of this. All the findings of physical science from day to day, as well as those of spiritual science, attest to this. Regardless of who or what originated the Laws and Principles governing this Law and Order, they have been created and established, and caused to function. We cannot abrogate them or destroy them; we may ignore them for a time, but eventually Man must recognize, accept and apply them, and conform to Law and Order. So it behooves him to respect, pay homage to, and increase his knowledge of them and the Great Creator, and to abide by the inexorable Law and Order which prevails as a result of their unvarying functioning. Yes, and to be grateful for all.

In view of this, is there any end to what may be written and disclosed concerning basic Principles? Isn't there always need for extended information and knowledge concerning them?

10 NATURAL SCIENCE

Natural Science is so named, first, because it includes all natural phenomena, physical, spiritual and psychical; and next, because it adopts Nature's plan when it comes to the study,

analysis and demonstration of all of those natural phenomena.

The Purpose of Natural Science has ever been to uncover and analyze the Ethical Principles of human life and impress them in their simplicity and grandeur upon intelligent Consciousness in order to have them acknowledged facts of Nature, and transmute them into actual, vital, constructive energies and forces for the upbuilding of the *Temple* of Human Character.

It seeks to enable an Individual to discover these principles, not that he may invent clever fictions and ingenious sophistries whereby to disguise them and avoid them, but that he may make them "The Rule and Guide of His Conduct," and thereby conform his life to the Constructive Principle of Nature upon which alone he must depend for the achievement of *Mastership*.

The real spirit of progress never dogmatizes. Logical concepts, agreeing with our observations and experiences, are the only safe guideposts to correct living and will give us a new measure of values.

Science reveals that all the good in the Universe is here for *you* to use and enjoy *today*. There is no need to wait until you die to enter heaven.

Science and Philosophy and Religion are not in conflict. They are concomitant factors in the same great problem of individual life and unfoldment. Truth is the vital element which unites them all.

Throughout the literature of Natural Science is taught the philosophy of religious tolerance, freedom of individual Conscience, the Right of the Individual to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, the Right of Mankind to worship God according to the dictates of Individual Conscience, and all other doctrines that safeguard the dignity of the Individual. But these teachings are qualified by the principle that the Individual shall not trespass upon the Rights and Liberties of his Fellowmen.

The Great School of the Masters as it exists upon the earth at this time is but the present and last link of a great "unfinished chain" (Jesus was a link in this chain) by means of which the crystallized results of the ages past are brought down to us of this day and generation. You who shall receive these results in

good faith, and who of your own free Will and Accord enlist your services in the *Great Work of Emancipation*, will constitute the next regular link in this same great chain.

Who in his life, as in his genius, might illustrate the possibilities of any Soul on earth today more perfectly than Jesus'? Elevated by the ideal which He exalted, His was a glorious existence. He lived amidst all that was least perishable in the past, and contributed, with the noblest aims and in the purest spirit, to the mighty heirlooms of the future. His youth was devoted to toil, so that his manhood might be consecrated to fame, a fame unsullied by the desire for Gold.

Jesus was definitely identified with The Great School of the Masters, and Himself became, under their instruction, a Master in the highest and most exalted concept of the word. The Great School of Natural Science is the Great School of the Masters—the Great Central Source and Reservoir of Knowledge (Religious, Philosophical, Moral, Physical, Spiritual and Psychical), which the best intelligences of all ages have intuitively sensed and definitely accepted as the progressive influence in the Evolution of Mankind from Spiritual Infancy and Darkness to Soul Maturity and Illumination.

Backward along the Pathway of human history, at every milestone which marks the way into the mystic mazes of remotest antiquity, there have been those whom their fellows, out in the great world of humanity, have called "Masters."

These Masters are the Great Teachers, who, throughout all human history, have not only declared their personal knowledge of another life, but have also made a personal demonstration of their knowledge in such manner as to leave no doubt at all in the minds of their disciples, or students, that personal knowledge was a fact.

In those ancient days, as in these modern ones, there were advanced Souls who devoted their lives and their efforts to a study of the Great Problems of Life, Death, the Soul, Human Destiny, Life after Death, and—*Mastership*. Then, as now, there were the few exceptional Souls whose individual efforts were rewarded by greater knowledge of these Problems than was

attained by their fellows who devoted their efforts to the things of this purely physical earth. These advanced Souls come to be regarded by the masses as "Masters," and in some cases, even as "Divinities."

The same is equally true of the Advanced Souls of today, as well as of all times. There are "Masters" today, as truly as at any time in the history of humanity. And these Modern Masters have solved as many of the Greater Problems as did the more ancient Masters of Egypt, Syria, Persia, India, and other civilizations. By personal experience they have solved the problem of the continuity of individual life beyond the Grave, and have made many other discoveries that are, as yet, unknown to the masses of humanity.

Among some of the Great Masters are—

Christna	Buddha
Eliola	Confucius
Melchizedek	Jesus
Pythagoras	Bulwer Lytton ¹
Socrates	Shakespeare ¹
Zoroaster	Richardson, TK ²

These were men living upon the physical plane of life, subject to all the trials and handicaps of time, place, environment, circumstance and conditions of the social and moral development of the people in whose midst they labored and taught.

In varying degrees, therefore, their individual efforts were

¹Bulwer Lytton and Shakespeare, though not accredited Masters, or designated as such, had drunk deeply of the Knowledge and Wisdom of the Great Masters. Lytton embodied much of that profound knowledge in his various writings. Shakespeare drank of the same crystal fountain of Truth. His profound and searching knowledge of the inmost workings of the human mind (Soul) could not have come to him except through channels which led up to the same Great Reservoir, the Great School of the Masters.

²Richardson, TK, is the Editor of Volume I of the Harmonic Series, *The Philosophy of Individual Life*, and Author of the seven books that followed. TK, for almost a century, was in daily personal contact and association with the Masters of the Great School, and his writings are based on personal knowledge and experience.

successful in leaving the imprint of Truth upon the civilization of their time, and on subsequent generations of men, even to the present time.

The Great School of the Masters still looms in the background, laboring to transmit its Instruction, in its entirety, and in such manner and form that there shall be no possibility of failure.

And this Great Reservoir of Knowledge is available today to any individual intelligence which proves itself worthy and well qualified.

Natural Science endeavors to point out to all who have confidence in its teachings, the Laws, Principles and Processes of Nature governing the Constructive Development of Human Beings. In the Formulary of Natural Science, for the first time within our knowledge of History, we find "Ethics" reduced to an "Exact Science"; this is an accomplishment of not one mind, but the Fruitage of the Best Intelligences of all ages from the Cradle of Humanity to the present.

Thus the cumulative results of the Ages may be passed on to others who are ready, willing and able to receive them and rightly use them.

Natural Science endeavors to point out the things that are destructive in their effects upon the Individual, and those that are constructive, *so that the individual may have before him a clear and reliable chart of the two Roads, the two Ways of Life, and a definite knowledge as to which of them leads to immortality and individual Happiness, and which to destruction and individual Suffering and Wretchedness.*

Its intent is to safeguard you against as many mistakes as possible, and thus to conserve your energies for Constructive Work, as far as may be possible.

In the Ethical Section of the General Formulary, you have the crystallized experience of the Masters of Natural Science throughout all the past Ages, of their scientific labors. If you are wise enough and strong enough to avail yourself of the scientific results therein placed before you, it is possible for you to achieve the most highly beneficent results.

Remember, this "Crystallization" has been tried, tested and demonstrated times almost without number.

11 FACTS

If the Church would carefully tabulate under separate heads its "facts" and its "theories" and "speculations" concerning those "facts," it would simplify the work of its followers, and would avoid the most prolific source of confusion which warps the lives of the ignorant.

Confusion in the teachings of the Church is confusion in the minds of its followers. The intellectual grasp of a Teacher is conveyed to the student just as unmistakably as his insincerity, egotism or selfishness are conveyed, no matter how lofty the theme or how ingenuous the language. It is just as impossible to teach the facts of Nature by intuition, or by faith, as it would be to teach mathematics by intuition or by faith. The practical and rational mind is encountering many perplexities in its attempt to follow and assimilate the theories, dogmas and doctrines of the Church.

It is not in the spirit of hostility or unfriendly criticism that this is written, but rather as a friendly observation from one who has often encountered the perplexing difficulty just mentioned.

Plans should be based on facts. Put Science in place of Sentiment; Philosophy in place of Speculation; Religion, True Religion, in place of Superstition; Knowledge in place of Ignorance; and, over all, Law, Justice, and Truth.

Facts of Nature known to Natural Science, if they could be brought to the Consciousness of all mankind, would surely inspire Mankind, while yet upon this plane of Earth, to nobler pursuits, higher purposes, loftier emotions, more exalted aspirations, and cleaner, sweeter and purer lives. Would it not seem to be the Duty or Responsibility of the Church to make every effort to ascertain all these facts, and to bring them to the attention of all Mankind?

By the single virtue of Truthfulness, the entire world, with its two billion or more people, could be made a happy paradise.

But this beautiful project would create a prejudice among certain Christians, so-called, who, like the priests of old, speculate upon the ignorance of the masses to enrich themselves.

Science is uncovering new facts of nature by leaps and bounds, while it seems the man-made doctrines of salvation are in a state of stagnation, a combination of blind faith with lack of understanding. These man-made doctrines have served their purpose and should be considered obsolete.

The advancement of Natural Science will sooner or later displace the unsound Creeds of the world, and it would seem to be the Duty and Responsibility of the Church to bring to the Consciousness of Mankind all facts of Nature uncovered since Jesus' time, if it, the Church, is really unselfishly concerned with the welfare of the masses. The True Religion of Humanity will be found when all of the old religions come back to their esoteric origin, meaning and purity—that is, when built around *known facts* only. Then they will be in Essence, One. True Religion and Philosophy offer the only solution of every problem.

The student of the Philosophy of Individual Life, in time, realizes that the knowledge he is gaining would be priceless knowledge to men who have not enjoyed his opportunities. He realizes that the pleasures and powers which he enjoys are those so deeply desired by, but practically unknown to, the average man. He realizes that the whole world suffers because of its ignorance of Laws he is daily demonstrating. Once he realizes this, the student's duty to humanity becomes paramount. From this time forward, his mind is occupied with the desire to pass on to others his already acquired gains.

Every student of the Philosophy of Natural Science discovers that each individual owes a duty first to himself, and next, to the world. His first duty is to improve himself; his second is to benefit humanity. The latter is his duty whether the world appears friendly or hostile to his purposes.

The things we know are those of which we are in a position to make the best and most intelligent use, both in our own behalf and in behalf of those who need our help. This fact alone gives to them a value and an importance which is paramount to us.

Actual knowledge is of greater value and importance to the Individual who possesses it, than is assumed knowledge. It is vastly multiplied in value and importance when it is compared with mere speculations, opinions and beliefs, any or all of which may prove to be erroneous, or entirely without foundation in fact.

It follows with irresistible logic that one of the most important duties every individual owes to himself and to his fellowmen, is, at all times and as rapidly as possible, to increase the number and volume of the things he knows, and, from this accumulation of data, to select those Facts and Truths of which he can make the most valuable use. Only by this process does he become better equipped to discharge his Personal Responsibility to himself and his fellowmen.

Most people act on assumed knowledge, because assumed knowledge involves far less Personal Effort on their part than actual knowledge. It is easier to entertain a prejudice than it is to acquire the knowledge necessary to rise above it. Most of us are the witless slaves of prejudice. It is more convenient to cherish a superstition than it is to acquire the Wisdom necessary to demonstrate its fallacy. For this reason most of us are bound by superstition.

Very little, if any, Personal Effort and Thinking is done by anyone concerned only in perpetuating custom. But how can there be Soul unfoldment, greater growth and constructive development unless more and more Truths are uncovered and exemplified?

Does it not appear that it is our solemn Duty, Obligation and Responsibility, intelligently, courageously and persistently to apply ourselves to the honest and earnest search for definite, personal knowledge? And to do this, if necessary, in defiance of our own present opinions and beliefs, prejudices and superstitions, inclinations and desires, as well as in defiance of those of our fellowmen who would seek to hold us in bondage? And to do this secure in the Consciousness that Truth is always a Friend to him who honestly seeks it, and a benefactor to him who lives it.

There is a Pharmacy for the Soul, as well as the body, which

can lift the Soul up to infinite heights. But first must be overcome the most stubborn of all bigotries, the fanaticism of Unbelief.

"Suppose a stranger visited a wandering tribe before the possibilities of certain herbs were known to them; if he told them that the herbs they trample under foot every day were endowed with patent virtues; that one herb would restore health to a brother savage on the verge of death; that another would paralyze into idiocy their wisest sage; that a third would strike lifeless to the dust their most stalwart champion; that tears and laughter, vigor and disease, madness and reason, wakefulness and sleep, existence and dissolution, were coiled up in those trampled-on leaves, would they not have him a sorcerer, or a liar? Mankind is yet in the darkness of the savages as to the means of exercising the faculties for unfoldment of the Soul" (Bulwer).

"If the whole earth were carved over and inscribed with the letters of Divine Knowledge, the characters would be valueless to him who does not pause to inquire the language and meditate the Truth. A Man is arrogant, ostentatious, or dogmatic (all phases of vanity) in proportion to his ignorance. Man's natural tendency is to egotism. Man, in his infancy of Knowledge, thinks that all creation was formed for him. For ages he considered the stars only petty candles, until Astronomy corrected this delusion of human vanity, and man now reluctantly confesses that the stars are worlds larger and more glorious than his own—that the earth on which he crawls is a scarcely visible speck on the vast chart of creation. But, in the small as in the vast, God, is equally profuse of life" (Bulwer).

A careful study of Motives, and a critical self-analysis along that line, will prove to any honest and earnest student the fact that what we designate as "Sensitiveness" is, in most respects, but another name for "wounded vanity."

It is found almost impossible to offer a person under the influence of such an emotion any suggestion of improvement, or call attention to any weakness of character or fault in him, because of his extreme "Sensitiveness" and his readiness to be wounded, hurt or offended at any suggestion of his imperfections.

This fact has caused much difficulty among people in their efforts to help their friends or associates, to overcome the specific difficulties which stand in the way of their individual evolution and unfoldment.

It is one of the established principles of psychology that the ability of any individual to improve himself depends primarily upon his intelligent understanding and appreciation of the fact that he is not yet perfect, and upon his realization of the fact that he must find out exactly wherein he needs to be improved. One of the most important realizations for him is to know wherein he fails to measure up to the standard of individual character necessary to enable him to become a "Demonstrator" of the Law.

Whatever (or whoever) prevents an individual from knowing and intelligently appreciating his own deficiencies is a fatal barrier between him and the goal toward which his work of self-unfoldment and development forever leads him. For this reason it is vital for him to recognize with absolute frankness and fidelity every weakness, fault, error, tendency or difficulty which stands in the way of his success.

Discover what will destroy life and you are a great man; discover what will develop, unfold and grow in Knowledge and Power, to great heights, and you are an impostor. The volatile and vital energy derived from Personal Effort and Right Attitude of Soul awakens faculties that will, with patient Humility, with sound Faith and the Courage of the resolute and virtuous mind, attain high achievement in the careers of men, with no less a possibility as a goal than the status attained by Jesus Himself. It is labor itself that is the great purifier of the mind, and by degrees the secrets will "grow upon thyself as the mind becomes ripier to receive them."

The yearning after the ineffable knowledge was not given in vain. Many who have cherished the hope have found the Truth. Every desire in human hearts is but a glimpse of things that exist, alike distant and divine. In the world there have been from age to age some brighter and happier Souls who have attained heights above those in which the beings of earth move

and breathe. Jesus, great though He be, stands not alone. He has had predecessors, and long lines of successors may be yet to come.

When Natural Science has pointed the way, it has fulfilled its mission. It is then a matter of Individual Choice with the Individual student. It is his prerogative to choose the road he will travel. Once he knows the right and the wrong of any subject, it is thereafter within his jurisdiction only to decide what he shall do. Thereafter it is not in the rightful jurisdiction of any school, cult, creed, dogma or *-ism* to tell him what way he should travel.

One of these Pathways leads to the North, toward the Land of Spiritual Darkness and Death; the other toward the South, to the Land of Spiritual Light and Life. One leads to a state and condition of Individual Bondage; the other to that of Individual Liberty. The one ends in the complete subjection and enslavement of an Individual Intelligence, with all its faculties, capacities and powers; the other, in the ultimate and complete emancipation of a Soul from the gravitative influence of evil and destructive tendencies. These are not mere figures of speech. They give expression to a profound scientific and historic Truth as real as life itself.

Why should anyone deliberately turn to the North, and without apparent hesitation, walk down the broad Pathway of Servitude into the Land of Darkness and Desolation, instead of into the Land of Liberty and Light? Perhaps because the vast majority of Mankind has but a hazy and imperfect understanding and indefinite knowledge of the destinations to which these two diverging ways lead.

It is to an Individual's own best interest, his greatest good and his largest possibility of Happiness, both now and in the future of his life, both here and in the Spiritual Life, to enter at once upon the noble and ennobling task of "Living a Life" in conformity with Nature's Constructive Principle; and never thereafter to falter until he shall arrive at the goal of Individual *Mastership*, whether that be in this life or the great hereafter.

Anyone, when he comes to a full realization of what this

means, will feel a sense of profound gratitude that the door of definite knowledge has been opened to him and us, and that we are permitted to enter and share with the Great Masters in the Knowledge that will "make us Free."

Any wholesome impulse to reason the problems out will not be in vain, for no man can use his intelligence upon the subject without arriving at an approximate knowledge of the Truth. Once the matter becomes clear to the Intelligent Thinker, the problems assume an entirely different aspect and become one of Nature's beneficent provisions by and through which the Soul of Man moves forward to its individual, evolutionary destiny.

A single Truth, however seemingly insignificant or unimportant, gives the intelligent possessor some slight vision of conditions most nearly related to it. The light of another Truth, added to that concerning the same subject matter, does not extinguish, annul or destroy the first Truth, nor in any manner militate against, nor conflict with it. To the observer, its value and importance are only multiplied.

He begins to reason. From his reasoning he draws conclusions. He sees dim outlines of other Truths, or seeming Truths. He longs to see them yet more clearly. He seeks to know them with greater certainty. One by one they are added to his increasing store of Knowledge. Their augmenting light illumines his surroundings. The darkness of superstition and ignorance recedes. The value of Truth is established.

Too little attention and small emphasis has, and is, being paid, as a whole, to the great Principles the Master Jesus was so earnestly endeavoring to present, elucidate, emphasize and fasten in the memories of the people. His entire educational mission was to teach them to fix these Principles only in the Consciousness of his disciples. It would seem that, instead, more time and energy has been spent inventing vicarious schemes and devices to avoid the Law than would have been required to obtain constructive results by Personal Effort. Why? To gain adherents? To hold Power? Why?

From the same Great Source from where Jesus received His Spiritual Knowledge, new and added Knowledge has come forth,

which should be of immeasurable value to Mankind if brought to its Consciousness. For the same reason that the so-called Christian Churches are ostensibly teaching the masses the Knowledge that Jesus brought to the world, the Truths uncovered subsequent to Jesus' Teachings should likewise be taught, for they are just as genuine and authoritative, and should prove of great benefit to Humanity.

Why is not greater effort put forth by the Church to obtain this Knowledge of additional Truths, and to bring them to the Consciousness of the masses, if the Church is really and truly looking out for the welfare of the people in an unselfish manner?

A careful analysis of the results obtained seems to indicate that the Teachings of the so-called Spiritual Teachers are wanting in the basic ingredients which make for vitality and progressive survival. The Teachings have failed in effecting the transformation of man so necessary to the peace and harmony of the world. The full utilization of important known facts and forces has been largely neglected. This failure of the Church in imparting available useful knowledge has left Man unimpressed with the all important immutable Laws of Nature, the clear understanding of which is necessary to cure his mental and moral disorders, and to make him well versed, peaceful and Happy.

The Teachings of Jesus are justified and upheld, and elaborated upon and explained, by the Great School of Natural Science of America.

In just so far as the teachings of the Churches are constructive, uplifting, and inspire in their members a desire to live a life of true Morality and lofty Spirituality, Natural Science is in perfect sympathy with their purposes and efforts. But it cannot ignore the simple fact that the theological dogmatism of the Churches, even though the latter call themselves Christian, no longer satisfies the seeker after Truth.

The object of Natural Science is mainly to meet the demands of an Advanced Intelligence for a more definite and scientific knowledge of the Laws of Life, and to show the scientific relation between natural law and ethical creeds.

Should not the Purpose of all welfare organizations, including the Church, be to establish, beyond all question, the true relation which mere dogmas and beliefs bear to actual knowledge, and suggest the relative value and importance of each to the individual?

He who possesses Knowledge or Wisdom or Power is likewise charged with the responsibility of rightly using the same.

Each one of us constitutes a *Unit of Force and Purpose* in the great body of Humanity of which we are a part, and we owe it to Society, as well as to ourselves, to be a healthy unit, above all, and to render to Society the highest measure of healthful Service of which we are capable.

In most of us, the current of energy from the spiritual world and conditions has become sluggish and stagnant; the smooth, free flow of spiritual current has been clogged. Therefore, we are utilizing only part of our potential energies in living. It would be helpful to us, and therefore to humanity, if we could and would re-establish the full flow of energy where there is now just a mere trickle, by supplementing the physical with the spiritual.

How can this be done? Simply by removing the obstructions, by stopping the interference, by withdrawing the detritus that blocks the spiritual current, by consciously and purposefully opening the channels through which the normal flow proceeds, and then intelligently, alertly and positively endeavoring to perceive and utilize the strength and force of the finer currents.

The Spiritual World is as much a part of Nature as the physical world so familiar to us all. The Spiritual World is not an *unnatural* world. Neither is it a *supernatural* world. It is strictly and literally a "natural" world, and all the "facts" concerning it are "Facts of Nature." Physical Science knows that Man has a physical body. Natural Science knows that Man has a physical body and a spiritual body. The Bible also tells you of the existence of a spiritual body. Natural Science knows that the physical body and the spiritual body are the instruments through which the Soul of Man expresses itself on the physical and the spiritual planes of life.

The Spiritual Development of an Individual is measured by the Intelligence with which he applies his Knowledge to the accomplishment of Moral Purposes. Therefore, go on, dear friend, "Casting your bread upon the waters, for you will surely find it after many days."

12 TRUTH

A component or essential part in the enjoyment of anything worthwhile is understanding of that worthwhile thing. To enjoy the profoundness and beauty of Truth, it is necessary to understand it. Understanding comes to one as fast as Personal Effort prepares the mind to receive it. Ponder the importance of these words to You.

What is Truth? Natural Science defines it as "the established relation which the facts of Nature sustain to each other and to an Individual Intelligence, or Soul."

Truth is the vital element which relates Science, Philosophy and True Religion. A mutual, intelligent, courageous and persevering search for Truth will lead to a common understanding, and its exemplification will unite all peoples, nations and races.

The Standard of Conduct based upon Truth involves Man's individual knowledge of the Constructive Principle of Nature, and his conscious dependence upon this Principle for all the evolutionary possibilities of His Being. Acquired through Science and the conclusions of Philosophy are the Moral Principles, the practice of which is the Living of a Life in conformity with the "Principles of Nature," and this constitutes True Religion. True Religion, according to Natural Science, is "the application of the facts of Science and the conclusions of Philosophy to Individual Life and Conduct."

So we have Knowledge, which is the facts of Nature, identi-

fied, verified and acknowledged by Human Intelligence; Science which is Exact Knowledge of the facts of Nature, classified and systematized; Truth, the established relation which the facts of Nature sustain to each other and to the Individual Intelligence, or the Soul of Man; Philosophy which is the conclusions which men in their search for Knowledge of Truth have drawn from the facts of Science; and Religion which is the application of the facts of Science and the conclusions of Philosophy to Individual Life and Conduct; and finally, Wisdom, which is the Right application of Knowledge and the Right use of Power.

Exemplification of the Truth should begin by untangling Jesus from legend, myth, fable and exaggerations, by restoring the True Figure of Jesus by disentangling it from the accumulation of superstitions and wonders with which it has been surrounded. Is it possible to disenchant fable or myth, and make Mankind adore the Truth?

"And the Truth shall make you free." The Highest Court of Justice is the Yardstick of Truth, and the Test of Truth is by its use and beneficence. Beginning with fiction and fable will not teach Truth, and will not, therefore, bring salutary results. We cannot base our reasoning upon false concepts and expect to arrive at a True Conclusion. As long as the Concept is false, everything springing from that Concept will be Error. Teachings are vitalized by Truth. Actions based on erroneous concepts result in delayed Soul unfoldment, growth and development.

Why not begin with the Great Truth that Jesus was a Man, a Human Being, just like You and me? Jesus never claimed to be anything else. He did say He was a Human Being such as You and I. If we are to believe anything He said, then let us begin by believing that.

Jesus was an outstanding spiritual leader by virtue of Soul Growth through Self Effort, through Knowledge and Powers not conferred by supernatural birth, but by Personal Effort and Experience, from which He gained Understanding of the Laws of God, or Nature, surpassing that of his fellowmen.

People's minds have been shackled with a multitude of false beliefs; they are prisoners of ignorance, fear, discouragement and unhappiness. They can be released only by the Truth, not

by fictitious tales and false doctrines. "And the Truth shall Make You Free."

People were prisoners of ignorance when they believed the earth was flat—an unfounded concept. Proof that the earth was round freed them from an unfounded concept. It was the Truth which freed them. Only Truth can deliver their minds from wrong concepts. Jesus did not say that He could make them free. He said, "The Truth will make you free."

Jesus was an evolution under both natural and divine Law, and his evolution was the result of Personal Effort in acquiring the necessary Knowledge and exercising Self-Control in rightly applying his Knowledge and Power in the Living of a Life, revealing the definite fact that these potencies are latent in every Human Being; that it is what we *do*, not what we *believe*; what we *are*, not what we *profess*; what we do for ourselves and others more than what Jesus did for us that is important. All this is in strict conformity and analogy with the life and teachings of Jesus. This makes Jesus in Truth a *Living Example* and not a *Blood Offering*.

Jesus is an example of what Personal Effort can do toward expansion of Individual Consciousness. So far as Science knows, the possibilities of Individual Consciousness have never yet been determined, and its limitations have never yet been reached. The entire problem of Evolutionary Development and Spiritual Unfoldment, in one sense, is but the problem of how to extend Individual Consciousness and thus enlarge the field of its operations. Jesus of Nazareth *differed only in degree, not in kind* from other men.

The Soul, as far as Science knows, never reaches a state of perfection, or a state of Being where there is no more change. Such a state would mean that You no longer would have to depend on a Superior or Supreme Being. There would be no further need of God. The constant evolutionary potentiality of the Soul, however, would seem to deny the "static" condition of the Church—the complicated and artificial theologies of Christian orthodoxy. The Church continues to teach the letter of the Bible. "For the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

The Bible, correctly interpreted, teaches psychology and

metaphysics. It deals primarily with psychic activities. It is the spiritual meaning that is important. For the most part the Bible characters are fictional, expressing states of mind. Some people seem to know this Truth intuitively, but when they seek to obtain further light on this important subject from their so-called Spiritual Teachers, they do not seem to receive much encouragement, and in most instances are informed that they, the inquirers, are too speculative.

Why? Probably they are told this because if they do their own thinking, these so-called spiritual leaders will lose control over their lives. But, as long as we do our own thinking, our Consciousness will grow and grow, and our lives will be enriched proportionately.

Either the Church must change, or the Individual must break out of the narrow bonds of the Church, exercise his Power of Will, and through Personal Effort extend Individual Consciousness, and thus enlarge the field of its operations so as to use and enjoy all the good in the Universe which is placed here for him.

Endless repetition of the name of Jesus and his deeds and overemphasis on his personality serves no good purpose; neither does it conform to his wishes. Rather, we should put greater emphasis on the Principles He strove so hard to make clear to his fellowmen. Jesus needs no one to extol his accomplishments. No one can add luster to a reputation already shining. The surest way to carry out His wishes and most surely safeguard Humanity's interests is to reaffirm the basic Principles which Jesus taught, and above all else, to have faith in the wisdom of the people and believe that they will thrive better on the Truth than on fictitious tales.

Evolution of the individual involves constantly increasing knowledge. Knowledge—upon advanced planes—expresses itself in Light. Light is definitely related to the ability to See—to Understand.

The primitive man resembles the child emerging from the unreasoning state of infancy. Indeed, child life as clearly represents the Evolution of Individual Intelligence as the prenatal

development of the physical body of the child represents the processes of physical evolution.

With the dawning of its Reason, the child clearly represents that evolutionary stage at which the prepared animal organism inspired the Soul Life Element and became the Rational, Living Entity. During childhood, whether of a man or a race, life is a succession of experiments, mistakes, penalties and apparent penalties. A race, like a man, must learn the nature and effect of Law and the transgression of Law by independent experiments.

In our search for knowledge we are seeking to identify the facts of Nature as they exist.

In our search for Truth we are seeking to know the established relation which these identified facts of Nature sustain to each other and to Individual Human Intelligence.

This differentiation between Knowledge and Truth is important and should not be ignored or lost sight of by the student who seeks to become a demonstrator of the Law.

Knowledge has to do with facts.

Truth has to do with the relation these facts sustain to each other and to ourselves as Individual Intelligences.

For instance, let us take a map of the United States, glue it to a thin board, and then saw it into hundreds of pieces, thus making a jigsaw puzzle out of it. Now each piece is a fact. When all these pieces (facts) are placed together in their proper relation, we have again the map of the United States (the Truth).

The presence of one light does not extinguish another light. It only adds to its intensity and effect.

In like manner one Truth does not extinguish or in any manner conflict with another Truth. It only adds to its potency and value.

The greater the candle power of light, the more definite and distinct is the sense of physical vision, until the limit of the power of resistance of the physical organ is reached.

Equally true is it that the greater the number of correlated Truths at our command, the more definitely and clearly are we able to distinguish the subject matter under consideration, within the limits of our rational powers.

Light dispels darkness.

So also Truth dissipates ignorance (which is intellectual Darkness).

Light is a fundamental necessity to the proper growth of all physical organisms.

With added emphasis, Truth is the vital principle of the foundation of all constructive spiritual unfoldment and Soul Growth.

The greater the candle power of light the more perfectly we discern the true colors of things physical.

The greater the volume of Truth at our command, the more clearly are we able to discern the delicate shadings of principle which color all life.

The purpose is to establish beyond all question the true relation which mere dogmas and beliefs sustain to actual Knowledge, and to suggest the relative value and importance of each to the individual.

Jesus possessed extraordinary Powers because of Soul Growth obtained by Personal Effort and Right Guidance in the School of Natural Science. Personal Effort brings Knowledge. Knowledge rightly used brings Power. Exact and definite Knowledge comes to all of us in exact ratio to the amount of Intelligence, Moral Courage and Perseverance we put into the active search for it. Some call it Miracle. Miracle and Mystery are merely theological jugglings in an effort to reconcile their contradictions and irreconcilable paradoxes.

The very concept of Miracle is Lawlessness. Jesus' power came from *obeying* the Law. Mystery is but another name for ignorance. There is no Miracle, no Mystery, to anyone who has accumulated sufficient Knowledge, as Jesus did, through Personal Effort. Any Man or Woman can do the same. The Man of Nazareth was not deceiving his disciples when He assured them that if they would do the things which He indicated, and exemplify in their lives the Law of Evolutionary Unfoldment, the time would come when they would not only be able to do the things which they marveled at when they saw Him do them, but they would be able to accomplish even "greater things than these." He was but outlining to them the inevitable operation

of the Great Law of Compensation. The Laws of Nature are fixed and immutable. Her processes are unvarying and inevitable. We may rely upon them today with the same assurance and the same guarantees as did the Great Friends—the Wise Men of the East.

Mystery is the absence of Knowledge and Understanding. As Knowledge is acquired, mystery fades. As Science penetrates mystery, it discovers Law and Order, Plan and Purpose, Justice and Wisdom in Nature. Natural Laws and Principles govern Life and Action. The echo of the Ages has been "Man, Know Thyself."

We must change so as to be in tune with the present scientific Age. Why should we compromise with a patched-up version which still is built on Error of the past Ages? As a rule there is never growth without discomfort to somebody. That is why the new discoveries of Science often give us the "willies," or so needle the static, quiescent members of society as to produce, frequently, some quite bruising situations. Civilization sits on a past and present filled with struggles between the old and the new. Its enduring future largely hinges on the still unresolved schism between external and internal authority, between the need, on the one hand, to develop an inner spirit and responsibility dedicated to goodness, and the habit-fixed practice, on the other hand, of walking the straight line solely because of a fear of perpetual hell-fire. Fear, in any of its phases, is destructive.

"Learn to be Poor in Spirit if you would penetrate that sacred night which environs Truth. Learn of the Philosophers always to look for natural causes in all extraordinary events. Magic! What is beyond their own power, the ignorant cannot comprehend to be lawfully in the power of others. Spiritual Life! May there not be forms of matter or life as invisible and impalpable to us as the animalcule in the air we breathe, the water in the well? Is it not possible that such things may have passions and powers like our own—as the animalcule may have to which I have compared them to? The monster that lives and dies in a drop of water, carnivorous, insatiable, subsisting on the creatures minuter than himself—is he less deadly in his wrath,

less ferocious in his nature, than the tiger in the desert? Around the animalcule that sports in the water there shines a halo, as around the star that revolves in bright pastime through space. Is it not just as possible that there may be other things around us which we cannot see with physical eyes because Providence has placed a wall between them and us, merely by different modifications of matter?" (Bulwer.)

Jesus said we could all do what He did, if we worked as He did. Who is there more worthy of belief?

13 ATONEMENT

Atonement—the so-called Christian Scheme of Salvation as taught by some Religionists—makes it possible for those who accept the conditions specified to escape the natural and otherwise inevitable consequences of their sins, and thus evade or avoid their Personal Responsibility, and regain their Immortality, their right to Eternal Life.

From the theological point of view, this scheme was based on "the Sacrifice of Christ as a substitute for the penalties incurred by sinners." This Scheme, however, nullifies the Laws established by the Great Creator of the Universe for the harmonious government of the Universe and Man. The promoters of this Scheme also tell us Man was a sinless and perfect Being. Just how a sinless and perfect Being could "fall" is something they do not explain, and this is a question evidently not easily answered. Furthermore, the inventors of this Scheme, as well as all beneficent religious and moral philosophies of all times and all peoples, have recognized Personal Responsibility, and have acknowledged it as part of God's original working plan. Science holds, without equivocation or mental reservation, that Man is charged with the fundamental obligation of Personal

Responsibility and Moral Accountability, having been given Consciousness to Know and Will to Do—or Not to Do—that is, Independent Choice; otherwise Man would be nothing but an automaton.

In the stupendous scheme of Evolution, it would seem that Nature, or Universal Intelligence, has been engaged in a process of evolving an order of Intelligence to which it could shift the burden of Individual Responsibility for that Intelligence's Acts and Conduct. In Man it has achieved this end.

Whatever Personal Responsibility may be in essence, it is something which all men agree upon as one of the profoundly important facts of Nature. All men agree that, whatever it may be in essence, it binds Humanity because it is a part of Man's estate. It binds him because he is a Man, and he is a Man because it binds him. The two are inseparable. Man would no longer be Man if the element of Personal Responsibility were taken out of his Being.

An Individual Intelligence, granted Consciousness and Independent (unaided and uninfluenced), Self-Conscious (knowingly and intentionally), Rational (anticipating the results) Will or Volition, makes Man a Responsible Living Being.

Yet orthodox theology is based on the incredible theorem that man was a "sinless" and "perfect" Being, and subsequently, because he ate the fruit of an actual tree, he "fell," and punishments were meted out, not only to him, but also to his distant posterity, for a sin of which they are entirely innocent. Moral Accountability and Personal Responsibility are based on Knowledge, so it does not seem intelligent to chastise or heap penalties on two Human Beings created "full grown," without experience or knowledge, because they had no early life during which they might have accumulated knowledge and experience. Like many other stories in the Bible, the Adam and Eve story is purely allegorical, and has a deep and important lesson if properly interpreted, but should not be taken literally. This allegory is intended only to convey the message that we suffer through evil thinking.

There being but one fixed and definite Standard of Life

for each Individual, and that being the highest ideal of Equity, Justice and Right (as determined by the Soul Attributes of the Individual himself at any given time), it follows that each Individual is bound by the Great Law of Personal Responsibility to conform his Life to that Standard. Responsibility is based on Knowledge.

While Man is a creature of the Great Law, yet he alone must determine whether he will respect that Law. By the Power of Individual Choice and the exercise of his Will alone, he may cooperate with either the constructive or the destructive forces of Nature. *He alone thus determines his own destiny.* Nature has implanted in us that which enables us to recognize and understand wrong and at the same time impels us to strive for better things.

In making a choice as an Individual Intelligence, having the facts of Nature in mind, one should be impelled by the Knowledge of the logical results to follow from either choice. It is only for each of us to make his own Individual Choice—and may the Great Father, the Great Friends of the Friendless, and the Helpers of Those Who Need, help us to choose wisely, and refrain from judging those who choose differently.

14 SALVATION BY FAITH

Salvation by Faith and the Vicarious Atonement were not taught, as now interpreted, by Jesus. They are later perversions of the original doctrine. In the early Church there was not one Christ for the whole world, but a Potential Christ in every Man. Theologians tore the Christos from the hearts of all Humanity, in order to deify Jesus, that they might have a God-Man peculiarly their own.

“Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1).

The definition of the Great School is, "The intuitive conviction of that which both Reason and Conscience approve."

Faith is not Knowledge, yet it is an inspiration to Life. Faith is the steady expectation of a Soul. The energizing power of Faith should not be overlooked, but Man is mistaken in believing that Faith alone is all that is necessary. "Faith, if it have not Works, is Dead" (James 2:17). The more informed and thinking teachers and philosophers have stressed the importance of Personal Effort to improve the quality and character of one's Soul as a means of securing a happier life on this earth and hereafter. Mankind has, to a great extent, neglected Personal Effort in striving for a better life here on earth, because salvation has been promised without the necessity of Self-Unfoldment, Self-Development or Soul Growth. Salvation has been promised simply for a confession of penitence, and/or an assertion of Faith.

There will be no improvement in the Soul of Man and no spiritual progress of civilization until True Religion inspires a Man to seek Self-Unfoldment and Self-Development and Soul Growth through Personal Effort, or until these are impressed upon him by personal experience. Spiritual Growth and Understanding is a matter of Development through Personal Effort.

Spiritual Growth is an inner process, a reaction to obstacles overcome, resistance of all sorts, everything that means Effort. Must your butterfly not first burst its cocoon to get the sunlight? The Soul is no different.

Individual Immortality is an achievement of the Soul, and not an arbitrary imposition of God or Nature upon all Mankind without regard to Independent Choice. It is a Reward guaranteed by God, or Nature, to each Individual Man and Woman for the Right application of acquired Knowledge and the Right use of developed Powers. Individual Immortality means nothing more and nothing less than a condition or state of being wherein an Individual possesses the knowledge and the power to come into full cooperation with Nature's Constructive Principle.

Eternity is endlessness of the past and the future, so we are in Eternity now as much as we can ever be. Heaven is a State of Being, so we do not have to die to enter Heaven. As a matter

of fact, it is just as possible to be in Heaven here as hereafter. By Personal Effort we can acquire the Knowledge to enable us to maintain such a State of Being, or Heavenly State, continuously.

Personal Responsibility constitutes the essential foundation upon which rests the entire Ethical Superstructure, and makes the existence of Society possible. Penalties must be worked out under the Law of Personal Responsibility, which, in other words, is Man working out his own Salvation. In the Tribunal of Nature Man is in a Court of Absolute Justice, from whose jurisdiction there are no possible changes of venue, against whose decrees there are no injunctions or stays of execution, and from whose judgments there are no appeals.

There is no "Scheme" by which any one of us can hope to evade or even minimize our Personal Responsibility. Let us not deceive ourselves longer. Let us not even try to do so. Let us declare our emancipation from the tyranny of such a slavery. Let us do it now.

Wherever Society exists, there is a universal Understanding and assumption that, in our normal state and condition, we *do* exercise our given faculties, capacities and powers *independently*, and that, by reason thereof, we are Morally Accountable and Personally Responsible.

Such mutual understanding and assumption enter into, and are a vital part of, the "Social Compact" upon which all Human Society is founded and exists. Without them, the institution we call Society would not exist twenty-four hours. If anything should occur to destroy our Absolute Confidence in the Moral Accountability and Personal Responsibility of all normal Human Beings, the entire "Social Structure" would crumble into dust within the fraction of a second, for the fact that we can, in our normal state and condition, be made to account to each other and to Society for every breach of the Social Compact of which we are guilty is the vital element of the Social Compact upon which the entire superstructure of Society rests. Eliminate this Vital Element, and every "Social Prop" is instantly destroyed.

Man-made "Schemes" cannot, and do not, overrule the Laws of the Great Power, the Universal Intelligence, the Creator of the Universe. The absolute futility of any "Scheme" to evade Personal Responsibility is further emphasized in what follows later on, with regard to the Law of Compensation. This Law is one of the most important messages Jesus gave to the world in His Sermon on the Mount.

This Christian Scheme of Salvation tends to make Man content himself with mere belief, opinions, tradition and dogmas, rather than put forth sufficient effort to secure the facts. He shuns investigation and added light, because he is afraid these will destroy his fool's paradise. This is especially true if new light threatens to rob him of some of his temporary privileges or satisfactions. It prevents him from doing his best for himself.

In the realm of religion, Man has put more time and energy into inventing vicarious schemes and devices to avoid the Law than would have been required to reach the goal by Self-Effort.

Soul Growth is the result of Charity (the discharge of Personal Responsibility in service to others), and Patience (the Soul quality of bearing uncomplainingly any hardship that may fall to one's lot), of generous Tolerance (the attitude of Soul which recognizes, acknowledges, and respects the natural rights, privileges, prerogatives and liberties of all Mankind), of Humility (the attitude of Soul which represents the individual's due appreciation of his own abilities, advantages, and limitations without ostentation), and unquenchable Courage (the attitude which impels the individual to accomplish that which he believes is right). These bring Joy, Contentment and Satisfactions, and eventually Love and True Happiness, all of which must be paid for by hours and days and years of Personal Effort.

True Religion admits of no privileges, or special Gifts, or Special Dispensations, save those won by one's own Soul through Personal Effort and Merit through practicing Moral Principles. Every Soul must work out its own salvation. In the legislature of God, or Nature, there is no such thing as Class Legislation.

It is more important that men should strive to become Christos than that they should believe that Jesus was Christ.

Man, by Knowledge and Self-Control in the Right application of Knowledge and the Right use of Power, in this way becoming perfect in Humanity, attains Divinity; in other words he becomes Christos. This is the meaning, aim and completion of Human Evolution, as far as Science knows.

The perfect Man is Christ. This is the birthright and destiny of every human Soul. This was originally taught, but the Creeds of so-called Christendom have accorded this supreme consummation to Jesus alone, and have made it obscure or impossible for the rest of Humanity. In place of this Grandest Doctrine ever revealed to Man, theologians have set up Salvation by Faith, a man-made Creed, a pale counterfeit, ignoring, as it does, Merit, discouraging Effort, preventing Man from doing his best.

Teachers in error will come to find that no matter what the act, the consequences seek them out sooner or later. When the cycle is completed, measure for measure, the injury done to others will return to them that sent it along the unerring way. (False Teachers would do well, for their own sakes, to read the Chapter on "Hell" in *The Great Known*, Volume IV of the Harmonic Series, by J. E. Richardson, TK.)

Sooner or later every Man will come to realize the Responsibility which God fixes on him as a definite and necessary part of, and factor in, the scheme of Individual Evolution; and when he comes to know, deep down within his inmost Soul, that there is just one way, and one only, to meet the Responsibility; by the Living of a Life, and meeting his Personal Responsibility, then it is that he seeks to learn the exact nature of the Life he must Live in order that he may thereby meet the full requirements of the Law. That is, indeed, the beginning of Wisdom (the Right application of Knowledge and the Right use of Power).

15 THE LAW OF COMPENSATION

"The rule is to guard and do by the things of others as you would be done by" (Krishna, Hindu Deity, 1000 to 1500 B.C.).

"Do as you would be done by" (Zoroaster, Persian Master, 800 B.C.).

"I would return good for good. I would also return good for evil. I would meet trust with trust; I would also meet suspicion with confidence" (Lao-tze, Chinese Philosopher, 570 B.C.).

"One should seek for others the happiness one desires for one's self" (Buddha, 563 B.C.).

"What you do not wish done to yourself do not to others" (Confucius, Chinese Teacher, 551 B.C.).

"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them" (Jesus).

There is in Nature a universal and immutable Law of Compensation, first discovered by physical science; it is the Principle and Process which govern the conservation of energy, whereby Nature demands and receives—as compensation—a full equivalent for the matter she employs and the energy she expends in each and every transmutation she effects. Under the Moral Order of the Universe, You and I are bound by the Law of Compensation to pay to our fellowmen a just equivalent for all that we receive from them, whether in the physical, spiritual, mental, moral or psychical department of human nature, and Pay in Full, even to the uttermost.

The Law applies to all the planes and conditions of life. We must pay. We must pay all. There are no exceptions. The greatest as well as the least among us must pay. *No Christian institution, or any other institution, has been elevated to such a sublime position, or has had conferred upon it such Divine Powers as to be able to forgive human offenses to the Divinity, or to bring down God bodily by pronouncing a special set of words. Neither can any institution, or institutions, withhold anything from anybody that he has earned.*

All the ingenuity of the people of earth and the power of the Masters, including the Master Jesus, combined cannot cancel the smallest debt of the smallest debtor, nor the largest obligation of the greatest benefactor. All must pay. There is no "Board of Arbitration" before which to protest any debt. A Law of Nature is never subject to the caprices of men. It is fixed and immutable.

The Individual who is seeking to take advantage of Nature and receive something for nothing will strive to find some way of avoiding or evading the Law of Compensation. There is something of consolation to the honest searcher for Spiritual Light, in the fact that he will never succeed. This is true for the reason that it is a comfort to the honest seeker for Truth to know that Nature is consistent.

If it were possible for the Vain, the Selfish, and the Mean, in the spirit of Vanity, Selfishness and Meanness, to achieve Spiritual Independence and Mastership, that fact of itself would constitute a complete justification of Vanity, Selfishness and Meanness in human life and conduct. If it were possible for the subtle trickster, the clever pretender, the vain boaster, and the morally degenerate to skulk past the Law of Compensation into the Kingdom of Spiritual Light, then would Nature not only condone trickery, pretense, vanity and immorality, but would become a party to them. If this were possible, then also would there be no meaning to Honesty, Sincerity, Humility, and Morality. For if Nature made no distinction, why should man? If Nature provides obscure bypaths whereby the vicious and the cunning might slip past the Law of Spiritual Unfoldment and, through a dark subterranean passage and a secret panel, reach the guest chamber of the Temple of Spiritual Light from the rear, such a provision would constitute "Class Legislation" of the most vicious and degrading character in favor of immorality and wickedness in human nature. In this event, Nature, or the Great Universal Intelligence that expresses itself to Man through Nature, would stand condemned as a party to fraud, injustice, dishonesty and vice in all its hideous deformity.

In the legislature of Nature there is no such thing as class legislation.

Forgiveness of sins is not decided without reference to Morality. The Law of Compensation is inexorable in the realm of Morality. It is one of the great and profound facts of Nature. It is desired to emphasize the fact, also, that it is as much and as truly a factor in the Moral Order of the Universe as it is in the realm of Physical Nature. It is not a thing of Man's invention or creation. Its penalties are fixed and immutable, and they apply to all Men.

"And with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again," said Jesus. This is the Law of Life. The Law of Compensation. The Process of Receiving and Giving. The Golden Rule. The "Great Leveler." The basic and fundamental spirit of all True Cooperation. It simply means that as we do unto others, others will do unto us. The good that we do others, we will receive back in like measure, and the evil we do others, in like measure we shall receive back again also. For every unkindness, every deception, for all cheating, for every lie, every duty we neglect, every responsibility we evade, every time we abuse authority, we are doing something for which we will inevitably have to pay by suffering a like injury to ourselves.

"With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

It should not be difficult to realize that the admonition, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again," simply means that you actually injure yourself when you injure any other man or woman; each one of us is a vital part of Universal Consciousness, in individualized form.

We can at no time evade or avoid the Law of Compensation. We can at no time place ourselves outside the limits of its jurisdiction. In so far as we conform our lives to the constructive principle, we not only earn Nature's reward therefore, but we must receive it. In so far as we patronize the destructive principle, to just that degree we earn Nature's penalty therefore, and we must receive it.

There cannot be any real doubt concerning the fact of Man's Moral Accountability and Personal Responsibility, because of his Consciousness to Know, and Will to Do, or Not to Do,

Desire and Choice, Reason, Discrimination, Self-Control, and Conscience (that Knowledge of normal, adult human intelligence which enables one to differentiate between Right and Wrong in their relation to the Individual himself).

16 RECEIVING AND GIVING

Back of every fact in Nature there is a Principle to which that fact is related and to which it must be referred for its proper interpretation and meaning. There is in Nature a basic and fundamental Principle, Law and function that underlies every thought, every act, every movement, every process and every function, and this Principle may be described as the activity of Receiving and Giving. All human thought and action is expressed through this universal principle and process of Receiving and Giving.

If it were stated as a scientific fact that the whole of life's activities consists basically and fundamentally of this process, the statement could withstand all scientific tests. Establishing and maintaining a balance within this great and all-inclusive process constitutes the solution to the great universal search for

Health, Harmony and Happiness.

Under the Law of Equity, Justice and Right, we have a moral justification for taking as much from life as we stand ready and willing to render an equivalent for. We might further remember that our actual needs are few. Our wants may be many, and honesty says we are entitled to whatever we are willing to pay for.

Cheating generates disease as surely as the sun rises in the morning and sets in the evening (at least to our physical vision). We violate many laws; the results of such violations we do not

immediately feel, but there is no escape from Nature's Court of Justice.

When we begin to study life's activities from this point of view, living will lose its complexities, practically all its difficulties, surely all its confusion, a large portion of its mystery; and when we have learned to balance the scales of life, we will have emerged from Darkness into the Bright Sunlight.

The fundamental business of Individual Life is Receiving and Giving. This is the basic function and process of a Soul. In its primary aspect this represents the sum total of life's activities. In this simple process is embodied the entire scope, purpose and spirit of the Law of Compensation. This is the primary and fundamental basis of Ethics. This is the beginning and ending of Morality. This is the foundation upon which alone the Temple of Human Character may be erected safely and securely. On this foundation only can it endure.

Through Consciousness we Receive from Nature and our Fellowmen all that we now possess, or ever shall possess, and by the exercise of Will, we can give back a just equivalent for all we Receive through Consciousness, and thus preserve the balance of our account with Nature and our Fellowmen as demanded by the Law of Compensation.

Those who receive that which is not justly theirs are but fixing upon themselves a burden of Debt, for they must pay in full for whatsoever they receive. Let them not deceive themselves by the thought that they have received something for nothing, for this is not true; for whether it be here and now, or then, in the Spiritual World, the time will come—so surely as the day shall follow night—that they must pay; and the further off the day of reckoning, the more difficult become the terms of payment. Let not your selfishness deceive your Consciousness; for you cannot evade nor avoid the Great Law. You *must* pay.

But look up, and let not your heart be troubled; for while it is true that, under the Great Law of Compensation, you must pay, and pay to the uttermost, nevertheless the same Great Law guarantees to you that you also shall receive a just reward for every benefit you confer upon your Fellows. Hence, while it is inevitable that you must pay, it is just as inevitable that

those who owe to you must also pay. They can no more evade or avoid the Law than you can. Hence, you are nowise injured, for the Receiving must ever balance the Giving. This is but the other side of the same Great Law of Compensation. It is the Law of Individual Life.

Receiving and Giving! How supremely simple and easy it sounds! At first thought the mind is inclined to rebel at the suggestion. And yet it is safe to predict that you who read these pages, free from prejudices, and who are ready for "More Light" on the Pathway of spiritual life and progress, will do as others before you have done under similar conditions. You will go back and begin your study of the problem of Individual Life all over again. When you do, you will proceed anew from the simple basis here suggested. In due time you will find it possible to reduce many of the complex and intricate problems of your own life to the same simple basis. When you have learned to do this, new doors will open to you through which broader vistas of life's possibilities will appear, and you will marvel at the results.

You were the first Receiver, and Nature the first Giver. It is impossible for you, in your individual capacity, ever to make a voluntary gift of more than you have received. You cannot give that which you do not yet possess.

The individual who honestly strives to see how much he may do for others is the individual who, under the Law of Compensation, creates for himself a credit balance upon the Ledger of Life. He may be absolutely certain that his reward will come to him, in such manner and at such time and in such place as will bring to him the greatest possible measure of good.

As Individual Intelligences we have certain Rights, Privileges and Prerogatives which all men should respect, because they are necessary to our individual existence, and they are natural concomitants of our Being. Our existence as individualized, intelligent Souls would have no meaning without them. Among these are the Right of Individual Life, Individual Liberty and the Pursuit of Individual Happiness. These are Rights which we designate as "inalienable," because we know that they are those which no man has the right to take from us. No man

has the right to interfere with us in the perfect enjoyment of them so long as we, on our part, do not interfere with him in the enjoyment of the same Rights in his own behalf.

Nature went one step further. She at the same time fixed upon us certain concomitant Obligations, Duties and Responsibilities. These Obligations, Duties and Responsibilities are just as truly unavoidable as our Rights are inalienable. They bind us as uncomprisingly as our Rights, Privileges and Prerogatives bind the rest of Mankind.

Every Man is bound, by the Law of his Being, so to live his own Life, enjoy his own Liberty, and pursue his own Happiness, that he shall not in any manner whatsoever endanger the Life, curtail the Liberty, or destroy the Happiness of any other Human Being who is doing the same thing.

One who comes to this realization of Responsibility to his fellows possesses the ability to discharge that Responsibility, if he so wills.

However, there is a Principle of "Service" which, from the standpoint of Soul Growth and Spiritual Development, far transcends any of the "Inalienable Rights" or "Unavoidable Obligations," as those are generally defined and understood. Life would be an empty and meaningless heritage if mere living were the goal of individual attainment or individual purpose. The Man who is so busy "standing on" his Right, and who is so completely absorbed in jealously guarding it from the encroachment of possible trespassers that he has no time left for using it, thereby makes of it an empty treasure.

The rarest jewel in the world would only make of its owner an ignoble slave if its value so impressed itself upon him as to impel him to spend all his life in the selfish effort to prevent the rest of mankind from sharing it with him, or in any manner whatsoever benefiting through its existence. Life, itself, is of no value, either to an individual or to the world, except in so far as it is made a life of Service to the Cause of Humanity. A life of Service to others draws unto itself all the "Respect" and all the "Protection" it is possible for society, with few exceptions, to render to any Human Being.

The only life that is worth anything is the life of Service to Humanity.

Furthermore, no Duty is ever fully performed until it is done in the spirit of Cheerfulness. Every Man will realize some day the profound and solemn Truth that no Duty ever yet was performed, and none will be performed, by a Human Being while the Soul of the actor is filled with anger, bitterness, hatred, contempt, aversion, resentment, reluctance, or any kind of protest.

It is right that every individual should know that the shortest and most direct road to the goal of his own Self-Development (as well as Individual Completion and Happiness) runs through the sunlit valley of unselfishness beside the still waters of altruistic service.

The conscious knowledge of this great Truth should inspire men and women with a profound reverence for the altruistic principle at the foundation of all social ethics. It should change the focus of their attention from Self and from Selfish personal interest to a cheerful recognition of the obligations they owe to their fellows. It should awaken in them the spirit of kindness, courtesy, consideration and the desire to serve those who are oppressed by the burdens, the cares and the sorrows of life, rather than develop within them the spirit of selfishness, greed and the desire to profit at the expense of their less fortunate and more heavily burdened fellows.

If one hundred Men and Women who are pessimists today would but cast off their bondage of doubt of Nature's beneficence, and set themselves the reasonable task of living their lives with cheerful courage, like men and women of full stature, and of cooperating for mutual Happiness and material good, and of asking for the help of the Great Friends when their own efforts have failed in the achievement of lawful results, then it will be safe to say that, within five years, each and every one of them would have attained to a state of individual Content and individual Comfort in material things. The Great Law of Compensation has just as many rewards for the courageous and the faithful as it has penalties for the weak and the selfish.

17 PERSONAL EFFORT

Evolution of the individual involves constantly increasing Knowledge. The greater the volume of Knowledge and Truth at our command, the more clearly are we able to discern the delicate shadings of principle which color all life.

Knowledge comes through Personal Effort. It is not an "unearned increment." Knowledge is an essential factor at the very foundation of Moral Accountability and Spiritual Development, and it is the degree of Spiritual Development which determines the Evolutionary Status of the Soul of Men and Women in this life, as well as in the life to come.

Rectitude of Character, Virtue, Knowledge and Wisdom are mere germs of possibility within the Soul. They must be grown as the grain of wheat must be grown, in order that they may reproduce themselves. It is in the process of their growth that their equivalent in Personal Effort is expanded. Virtue never grew and matured into a permanent possession of any Soul, except as compensation for the striving of that Soul for better things. Knowledge and Wisdom never thrust themselves gratuitously upon any Man. Sometime, somewhere, he has paid their full price in Personal Effort. They have come to him only as compensation for the energy he has spent in his struggle upward into the light of Truth. There is no achievement in the realm of a Soul without Effort. Labor is the true measure of all Soul Values.

If Man is to create a better world, he must change himself, and he changes himself only through self-directed growth. The field of our Consciousness extends to infinity, as far as Science knows, and Man makes one discovery after another in proportion as he raises himself.

Man is saved just as far as he knows the Law and adjusts himself to it. In Real Religions the importance of definite Knowledge comes to be one of the first considerations in the progress and salvation of Man. To achieve Knowledge is the first step in

the emancipation of the Soul. The Law of Individual Effort is the Law of Progress. To get an extension of knowledge in any direction means Self-Effort. To secure any of the basic virtues requires Effort. For Knowledge one must pay, and pay with Self-Effort.

Most troubles of the world would not be, if each Individual knew he could not receive something for nothing, could not receive more than he earns. To think one can get something for nothing constitutes a disease, the evil results of which can be seen in every walk of Life. The Law of Self-Effort means that there is no way of achieving a worthy goal in life except by Self-Effort.

Personal Effort is a Process of Individual Intelligence and results in the expenditure of energy generated through the Soul Life-Element. This energy, generated through the Soul Life-Element, and accelerated by Personal Effort of Individual Intelligence, is a perfect equivalent for the growth of the Individual Intelligence, which is back of Self-Mastery. Hence, if you are willing to pay the price in Personal Effort, you can have all the Self-Unfoldment and Individual Growth you want.

In ancient days Man feared the Sun. Today he knows that the Sun sends energy to the Earth, which plants change into nourishing food. Knowledge and Understanding has replaced fear.

A more complete understanding of the Laws of Nature will replace all Fear, Doubt and Pessimism with Optimism, Courage and Faith in the beneficence of the Great Creative Intelligence, and will add tremendously to Man's Power, to his Comfort, Contentment, Prosperity, Satisfaction and eventual Happiness—True Happiness.

In most of us, the current of energy from the Spiritual World and conditions has become sluggish and stagnant. We can all re-establish the full flow of energy where there was just a trickle before.

Our material bodies (physical and spiritual) are actually broadcasting and receiving stations, purposely planned and created by Universal Intelligence for our use while on this Earth. We can increase their fineness of reception by Soul

Growth and Development, and thus be able to tune in on the more wonderful things to be had in the way of Knowledge. There is Universal Broadcasting at all times, but if we do not put our Receiving Instruments (our bodies) in the right wave length, we cannot obtain the benefit of this broadcasting. Through Self-Unfoldment, Self-Development and Soul Growth, we will eventually discover this for ourselves, and employ these Powers which are now potential within us.

If you ever achieve the Purpose of the Soul, and the Purpose of Nature, and eventually True Happiness, you will do so only by traveling the one and only Path that leads to these objectives. There is absolutely no other way. There is no method or process whereby you can evade or avoid the demands of the Law of Compensation. Here is where all the wealth of the physical universe cannot avail to mitigate the rigors of the Law one iota.

Only True Religion will stimulate Man to make the Effort at inquiry which is necessary to Understanding. There is no Royal Road to Happiness, anymore than there is to Knowledge.

There is no such thing as a "Static Condition" of the Individual Intelligence. It is always in a state of activity, or motion. It is always going somewhere. If it is not going forward, along the Path of Constructive Self-Unfoldment and Individual Growth, it is going backward, along the downward Path of Devolution and Destruction.

You are a free moral agent under the Great Law. Nobody in all the world can compel you to travel either of the two roads indicated. It is your own voluntary choice alone that must determine the Path you travel. There are but the two roads. You must travel one or the other. You cannot travel both at the same time, any more than you can travel both North and South at the same time, or around a tree in opposite directions at the same time. It is simply one of the physical impossibilities.

18 REFINEMENT

True Refinement is something deeper and more vital than mere outward courtesy, or so-called etiquette. True Refinement is a thing of the Individual Intelligence. Every effort of the Individual Intelligence to acquire Knowledge through Personal Effort and Experience, every effort of the Individual Intelligence for the constructive accumulation of Knowledge, every effort of study of Moral Principles and the definite practice of these principles in the individual's daily life and conduct, sets in motion the refining process that is back of all Independent Self-Unfoldment and Evolutionary Growth. This refining process effects each and every department of Nature within the Individual, refining the physical body, the spiritual body and the activities of the Individual Intelligence.

Spiritual Development and True Refinement begin with Morality. Morality is the scientific basis and natural beginning point. Morality is the application of Moral Principles to Human Conduct. It requires the Living of a Life in conformity with the Constructive Principle of Nature, as this has been demonstrated by the Great Masters throughout the Ages, and by them unfolded to their successive students. Jesus was a student, and He Himself became a Master in the highest and most exalted concept of the word.

The scientific basis of "Spiritual Evolution," which alone leads onward and upward to Individual "Mastership" such as was achieved by the Master Jesus, is Morality.

Immorality, on the other hand, has a coarsening effect. Self-Indulgence, in many forms, is coarsening in its effects upon the tissues of the physical body, as well as in its psychical effect. Self-Unfoldment, on the other hand, induces a refining process all along the line, physical as well as psychical; it must be clear to anyone able to reason that, to one who is seeking Self-Unfoldment and Self-Mastery in accordance with the Principles and Laws of Nature, Self-Indulgence is a distinct obstacle and a real detriment.

Your acts may be ostensibly trivial ones, or they may be ludicrous ones. Some acts are more destructive than others. Some acts are more obnoxious than destructive. But whether trivial or ludicrous, obnoxious or repellent, inconsequential or destructive, if they form an unbreakable habit, they become a badge of Servitude. Such habits stand between the Individual Intelligence and his Self-Unfoldment and Self-Mastery. The little trivial habits of today, slowly but surely make the individual unfit to cope with and withstand the greater, more destructive, coarsening habits tomorrow. They inevitably weaken his Will Power and his Power of Resistance, and make of him a victim of Self-Indulgence.

It may not necessarily be a crime, or it may not necessarily be a sin. One may be a thoroughly Good Man, in point of honesty, sincerity, humility, and all the virtues of a moral and upright life and character; and yet he may, at the same time, be a slave to the habit of smoking. A Woman may be a thoroughly Good Woman, from the standpoint of outstanding moral character, and yet she may, at the same time, be a slave to the habit of overeating of rich food.

But it is equally true, however, that an Individual cannot be a thoroughly *clean* Man or Woman (physically), or be physically *refined*, and at the same time have the tissues of his or her physical body saturated with nicotine, or alcohol, or rich foods, or coarsened by any other form of Self-Indulgence. And neither can an Individual attain self-mastery while he is yet subject to any habit that is stronger than his own independent Power of Will. Habit is the result of the repetition of an indulgence until the desire overcomes the willingness to withstand it, and the individual becomes a victim of his own Self-Indulgence.

Physical Refinement affects the refinement of the Individual particles or cells of which the body is composed; that is, it makes them smaller in size, and their vibratory activity increases correspondingly. The same constructive vital process exerts an analogous refining process upon the Spiritual Body. The degree of refinement regulates the Pull of Gravity on the Spiritual Body after Physical Death, and thus governs the status of each one of us when we leave this plane of Earth.

The attraction that holds the earth in space is the attraction that fixes the Soul to Earth.

19 GRAVITY

The Universal Law of Gravity is Nature's gravimeter, by which Nature determines the evolutionary status of the Souls of Men and Women in this life, as well as in the life to come. Under, and by virtue of, this Universal Law of Gravity, each one of us, at physical death, either rises or sinks—as the case may be—to the level of spiritual life and development (refinement) he lived upon just prior to death.

Everyone takes up the new Life exactly where he leaves off the old. He brings into the spiritual life all the hopes, ambitions, desires and purposes which stimulated him to personal effort upon the earth plane, and he will be equally impressed with them until he has had time and opportunity to learn that he has been in error. This takes time, and often it requires patient educational effort as well as Faith in the eternal verities of Nature, and in the Great Architect of the Universe.

Thus, under the operation of the Universal Law of Gravity, this physical life is fraught with momentous significance and unlimited possibilities. It is, in fact, the training ground from which we pass to a higher conflict. The Life we live here determines the level to which we gravitate there.

By obedience to Nature's Law we discharge our Individual Responsibility, and thereby earn Nature's reward therefore, which is Individual Immortality. And this is Compensatory Justice.

By our violation of this same Great Law, we incur the penalty Nature prescribes therefore, which, according to the terminology

of Natural Science, is Spiritual Death, the second Death, or total individual extinction. And this, to us, is Retributive Justice.

Thus, in its final analysis, the Law of Justice, as it is known and exemplified in the realm of the Soul's citizenship, is the Law of Individual Life and Death. Under the operation of this Law, the right of Individual and Independent choice is an inalienable and inviolable right of every Individual Man and Woman.

In accordance therewith, Man is, in the most exact and literal sense, the arbiter of his own destiny. He goes to that destiny whether it be in the realm of Light and Life and Immortality, or in that of Darkness, Disintegration and Death, because he, and he alone, has so elected. And this is the scientific "Doctrine of Election."

Every unselfish act done in behalf of one's fellowman lightens the Gravity of the Spirit and permits the Soul to rise, in obedience to the Law of its essential Being, to realms of greater Light and fuller Life.

Every act by an individual which purposely deprives a fellowman of that which by right is his increases and intensifies that individual's spiritual Gravity, and in obedience to the Law of his essential Being, he sinks toward the realm of Darkness and Spiritual Death.

The Process of Individual Refinement through the Living of a Moral Life may be accomplished while the Individual is yet in the physical body and upon the earth-plane of Life. When he has acquired sufficient Knowledge, together with sufficient Refinement of his Spiritual Body, he may pass out of the physical plane of Life directly into any plane of spiritual Life for which he may thus have fitted himself to ascend, under the Law of Universal Gravity. And that, indeed, is one of the most inspiring rewards which every Individual has upon the earth-plane to make his life a living expression of the Moral Law, and to acquire Knowledge through experience in conformity with the Evolutionary Principle of Life.

The Man of Nazareth was not deceiving His disciples when He assured them, in effect, that, if they would do the things which

He indicated and *exemplify* in their lives the Law of Evolutionary Unfoldment, the time would come when they would not only be able to do the things which they had marveled at when they saw Him do them, but they would also be able to accomplish even "greater things than these."

He was but outlining to them the inevitable operation of the Great Law of Compensation.

The Great Friends of today also know the Law, and they travel the Pathway of Life with the same unwavering Faith in the beneficence of Nature and of Nature's God.

20 SOLVING THE PROBLEM

The Church deals largely in generalities. What facts they may have are neither classified nor systematized, and the important facts, if any, certainly are not emphasized. The people, in this day and age, want facts, Knowledge that will do them some good today, Knowledge stripped of dogmas and fictitious tales and exaggerations. The Church does not provide a legible blueprint clearly outlining the important details that enter into the building of the Temple wherein the Builder himself must abide forever.

The Church relates stories of the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, the Scarlet Woman, Adam and Eve and many others, all unreal characters invented solely for the purpose of representing conditions of Consciousness; and this purpose is aptly accomplished. The language of exact science was not in existence in those times. Hence it was that there were employed so extensively symbolism, allegory, parable and a variety of figures of speech. Unthinkingly people have taken these figures of speech as factual; thus they not only fail to grasp the message intended, but, because some of the allegories cannot possibly

be literally true, many of them also are impelled to discard the Bible altogether; and this induces skepticism and doubt in others. Thus valuable lessons in the Bible are lost because of lack of proper interpretation. Misinterpretations thus minimize or destroy altogether the effectiveness of otherwise valuable information and knowledge of the Science of First Principles. Erroneous impressions thus result in delayed unfoldment, growth and development of the Individual Soul.

Natural Science, by practical methods, points out the things that are Destructive in their effects upon the Individual and those that are Constructive; in this manner one may avoid the former and cultivate the latter. It places before the Individual, in plain view, in easily understandable language, a word-chart of the elements involved in the Two Ways of Life. From this Chart the earnest student will come to know these facts of Nature so thoroughly and so intimately in all their relations that he will be able to co-ordinate them all in their relation to himself and to each other, and to adjust himself to them in their aggregate sense. It is this Attitude of Soul which is the basis of Constructive Spiritual Unfoldment. It is only when he has reached this Attitude of Soul that he has complied with the demands of Scientific Morality. It is only when he has attained to this status that he can be accounted a Moral Man in the sense which Science demands.

One by one these elements and principles are laid before the earnest student for his consideration. Each one of these constitutes an essential factor in the problem of Life. This Knowledge serves a present and practical purpose. Among other many benefits, it will spare him the affliction which comes through ignorance, and thus save him passing from failure to spiritual success through bitter experience.

For illustration, some of the elements involved are listed here. The Destructive Principle involves *Fear* (Psychological Refrigeration) and its phases:

Timidity	Apprehension	Anxiety
Mistrust	Shyness	Fright
Dread	Terror	Dismay

Despair	Alarm	Awe
Horror	Consternation	Despondency
Diffidence	Solicitude	Misgiving
Suspicion	Bashfulness	Worry

Take for instance, the item of Worry. Worry is a negative state or mode of Consciousness. At any time that a person worries, he is in a negative frame of mind, is holding a negative picture in consciousness, and thereby is aligning himself with the destructive principle; the result is destructive to him as an individual Intelligence, or Soul.

When a person worries, he is psychologically static, and this is a form of stagnation in which energy is dissipated. Have you thought of this, in that Worry is one of the most potent forms of concentration? Reason it through. Natural Science shows you how to overcome this phase of Fear, as well as its many other phases.

Anger (Psychological Combustion) and its phases:

Rage	Desperation	Irritation
Ill Temper	Pique	Resentment
Animosity	Rancor	Hate
Impatience	Fury	Wrath
Pettishness	Revenge	Bitterness
Displeasure	Indignation	Exasperation
Detestation	Annoyance	

And combinations, of Fear and Anger, equally destructive:

Jealousy

Envy

And the following, with their many different phases and degrees:

Self-Pity (Psychological Consumption)

Greed (Psychological Ossification)

Emotionalism (Psychological Intoxication)

Selfishness (Psychological Paralysis)

Vanity (Psychological Poison)

Self-Indulgence (Psychological Suicide)

Intolerance	Critical Attitude	Subjectivity
Hypnotism	Dogmatism	Dishonesty
Immorality	Mediumship	Evil Propensities
etc.	"Atonement"	etc.

These are all destructive characteristics of human nature, varying only in the degree of their destructiveness. The manner in which they are generally considered fails to give them sufficient emphasis. One difficulty is that the average individual does not realize that he is afflicted with them, or part of them, at all. Whereas the fact is that the vast majority are afflicted with them to some degree and many are sorely, distressingly and damagingly affected by them.

The Constructive Principle is covered in clarifying detail under these headings:

Morality	Spirituality	Soul
Law of	Will	Knowledge
Compensation	Obligations	Responsibilities
Temperance	Cheerfulness	Attitude of Soul
Duties	Living of a Life	Vibrations
Inalienable Rights	Wisdom	Altruism
Mark of the Master	Play	Poise
Judgment	Ethical Principles	Health Attitude
Conscience and	Service	Intelligence
Consistency	Refinement	Receiving and Giving
Loyalty	Desire and Choice	Ethical Section
Self-Control	Technical Section	Spirit of the Work
Personal	Possessions	Meat and Morals
Responsibility	Life	Tolerance
Consciousness	Faith and Works	Self-Discipline
Truth and Light	etc.	etc.
Transition,		
Called Death		
Beauty		
Faith		
Thinking		
etc.		

And others. These elements and principles are taken apart, analyzed and covered so thoroughly and with such clarity in the Harmonic Series that they will easily be understood, and their relation to one's self and the Constructive Principle grasped by the earnest student, and their significance and importance noted and remembered.

To indicate with what thoroughness these elements are covered, we quote partially from the subject of Vanity:

VANITY. There are two kinds of Vanity:

Vanity of Person

Vanity of Intelligence

Personal Vanity is admiration of one's own personal appearance. It is undue admiration of one's form, figure, face, dress, decoration, ornamentation, personal possessions and material belongings. It stimulates in us the craving for the admiration, the homage and the applause of others concerning our personal appearance.

Intellectual Vanity is unjustifiable admiration of one's own intelligence or intellectual attainments. It impels us to seek the admiration and the applause of others concerning our intellectual brilliance, wit, humor, knowledge, judgment and intellectual superiority.

Vanity, like Fear and Anger, expresses itself in many different forms and phases:

Self-Consciousness	Self-Conceit	Self-Gratulation
Self-Esteem	Self-Praise	Self-Complacency
Self-Glorification	Self-Assurance	Self-Admiration
Self-Sufficiency	Self-Approbation	Self-Elation
Self-Applause	Self-Love	
Egotism	Self-Confidence	

Vanity expresses itself outwardly by the following:

Arrogance	Boastfulness	Superciliousness
Imperiousness	Ostentation	Haughtiness
Disdain	Pretentiousness	Arbitrariness
Flippancy	Impertinence	Dogmatism
Audacity	Frivolity	

From a psychological standpoint, Vanity, in all its forms and phases, is destructive.

There is, perhaps, no single trait of human character which more clearly and surely betrays the charlatan and the fakir than that form of Vanity which impels man to the struggle for leadership and power. The badge of the charlatan is Intellectual Vanity. A number of truly worthy and beneficent movements, within the memory of the present generation, have been wrecked, and their influence for good among men and women has been virtually ruined, by the struggle of vain men and women for leadership and power. These worthy movements were the outgrowth of noble impulses and were founded on Truths and Ideals which, rightly employed, would have emancipated many a struggling Soul from the bondage of ignorance and superstition.

There is yet another form of Intellectual Vanity among men that deserves special attention and consideration. It is that which betrays itself in Dogmatism and Arbitrariness of both speech and manner.

Those who are familiar with religious history covering the period of the development of dogmatic interpretation will have in mind a practical illustration of the manner in which intellectual vanity leads to controversy, dispute and intellectual conflict. The intellectual battle of the ages was that which grew out of the dogmatic interpretations of Scripture. It continued for many centuries without abating, and, in a somewhat milder form, the controversy has come down even to the present time.

The "Doctrines" and "Dogmas" of the various Christian denominations owe their existence entirely to man-made interpretations. The doctrine of the "Trinity," for instance, grew out of the desire of religious men to understand something of the "Anatomy of God." They have taken the Bible as their textbook on the subject and, with this as a basis, have wrought out the interpretation of the "Trinity."

Mohammed, however, with the same data at his command, reached a very different interpretation of the same subject. He found that "There Is But One God," and, with the sword as his "scalpel," he came very nearly proving himself to be an "Authority" on the "Anatomy" of both God and Man.

Theological Dogmatism, as truly as other brands of dogmatism, is the result of Intellectual Vanity, and not of Piety, as many appear to believe.

Vanity, in whatever form or shape it may express itself, is the essence of Selfishness and is destructive in its spiritual and psychical effects. "It is psychological Poison."

Vanity, impelled by Selfishness, leads first to Greed and then to Dishonesty and Immorality. Vanity, Greed, Dishonesty, Immorality: that tells the story in all its simplicity.

The above, on the subject of Vanity, is but a short and incomplete excerpt from the chapters on Vanity. It is elucidated in exacting detail in the Harmonic Series, as are all the subjects referred to.

21 POISE

Self-Control is not Poise, although it is the psychological foundation upon which Poise may be established.

Poise is not Self-Control, although it is the direct and logical Result of Self-Control permanently established.

The two terms are, by no means, synonymous, although they are closely related from a psychological point of view.

Poise is the state or condition of an Individual Intelligence who has brought all his appetites, passions, emotions, impulses and desires under the definite dominion and voluntary control of his own Will and is able to maintain that established Self-Control as an accomplished development.

The impressive fact is that the Self-Control by and through which this state or condition of Poise is induced, or established, must result from the voluntary exercise of the Power of Will on the part of the Individual Himself. It cannot be induced or

established through the exercise of the Power of Will of any other Individual. Herein arises one of the vital and fundamental Principles of Psychology back of all constructive Self-Development, Self-Unfoldment and Individual Growth.

Hence it depends absolutely upon the ability of the Individual, himself, to establish the necessary Self-Control, and then maintain it by the Power of His Own Will until it becomes an accomplished development of Individual Intelligence; this means a permanent and natural Growth, like the development and growth of a flower.

And this means that the "established Self-Control" is the control exercised over the appetites, passions, emotions, impulses and desires.

A careful dissection of the foregoing analysis will show that there has been no elimination, destruction, extinction, or even modification of any of the appetites, passions, emotions, impulses or desires. They are still there—all of them—just as the Great Creative Intelligence originally planned them within the Individual Intelligence. They are just as robust and as powerful as ever they were. They are just as active and insistent as they have ever been. They are just as eagerly seeking for self-gratification and self-expression.

But we find that they do not dominate the activities of the Individual now as they did formerly. His appetites, passions, emotions, impulses and desires do not now impel him to automatic action in search of self-gratification alone. They are now under the dominion and restraint of his own independent Will Power. He is now something more than a mere animal. He is "a Responsible Individual Intelligence." As such, his attributes, which have been in process of Evolvment, Unfoldment and Growth since the birth of Humanity, have reached a pitch of development and power that they now have become dominant and supreme factors in Individual Human Life.

Poise is a natural development and growth of the Individual Intelligence. It is not an evanescent thing, which comes and goes with the varying moods of the individual. Neither is it an indefinite thing, depending upon external variations and condi-

tions of environment. On the contrary, it is a definite *Attainment* in direct line with a fixed and definite purpose and intent. And once it is *attained*, it must be *sustained* until it becomes a permanent Growth, an evolution of the Individual Intelligence. It is then no longer "Yours," but You. It is not a mere possession. It is you, Yourself, in a state of Poise.

When you come to realize the triumph you have won for the Cause of Life, Light and Immortality, you know that, in the achievement of Self-Mastery, you have earned the Supreme Reward which the Great Creative Intelligence, or Nature, offers to those who Obey the Law of Individual Life.

The Peace, the Joy, the Gratitude, the Understanding, the Satisfaction, the Great Content that come to you, flooding your entire Being with the knowledge that you now stand Approved by the Great Universal Intelligence, inspire you to make of your life a sacred consecration to the Cause of Truth and Humanity. You have proven the sublime Truth that he is twice blest who, in the Mastery of Self, becomes the willing servant of humanity; for herein you are Self-Blest, and blest by those you serve.

And it is the consciousness of Poise and of the blessing it brings to you that gives to your entire personality the outward expression of calm strength and peace. No single concept more fully expresses the state of Poise than that of an Intelligence in *Balance*.

The maintenance of Poise generates Power—the Power to visualize clearly, to follow the golden thread of Truth that runs through all the varied and intricate problems of human life, the Power to work by a direct route to the definite goal of our desires.

He who knows from a personal experience the true meaning and significance of Poise, and who is able to make it subservient to his Individual Power of Will, has earned the "Peace that Passeth Understanding," and he shall receive his Reward. Yea, verily, he hath it already.

Morality is the foundation of Constructive Self-Mastery and Poise. First it is necessary to learn the true meaning, value, basic nature and significance of Moral Principles. Natural

Science has discovered and wrought out a definite and scientific system of Moral Principles. It has proven its accuracy and sufficiency in every conceivable way. Transmuted into actual, vital, constructive energies and forces, Moral Principles build up the Temple of Human Character.

22 THE HARMONIC SERIES

The volumes in the Harmonic Series contain an exposition of the Philosophy of Natural Science as taught by the Great School of the Masters. Their contents flow from the Great Central Source and Reservoir of Knowledge (Religious, Philosophical, Moral, Physical, Spiritual and Psychological), which the best intelligences of all ages have intuitively sensed and definitely accepted as the great, beneficent, constructive, uplifting and progressive influence in the Evolution of Mankind, from Spiritual Infancy and Darkness, to Soul Maturity and Illumination.

Their Purpose is the transmission of certain scientific knowledge to the individual Man and Woman—Knowledge which may serve their present effort for an individual development. Their Purpose is not generally to reaffirm Universal Principles laid down in the past. Their particular Purpose is to disclose certain other principles and relationships that have never yet been scientifically and rationally explained. Natural Science today is prepared to state, explain and demonstrate this other fundamental principle, the Universal Principle of Polarity. Philosophy based upon that science is today prepared to teach the value of Individual Life, and the importance of the relation of Man and Woman.

Polarity is Nature's formula for Evolution. It is that Principle in Nature which impels every entity to seek vibratory correspondence with another, like entity, which however is of opposite

polarity. Under this Principle, matter is refined and increased in vibratory action, life is generated, intelligence individualized, Love developed, and Happiness obtained. It is Nature's method of improving her living products. To know what improves an Individual is to know what improves the Race. To learn the secret impulse, motive and desire which inspires an Individual to action is to discover Universal Human activity.

Happiness is the Moral Destiny of a Soul. Happiness rests upon the individual relation of one Man and one Woman. The attainment of Happiness is the goal as well as the privilege of rational Beings. The difficulties which stand in the way of True marriage, rationally and scientifically contracted, are great, but they are not insurmountable. The obstacles are many, but they are not infinite in number. There is a Natural Law of True marriage, and Knowledge of that Law is obtainable. Its fulfillment is a human possibility.

Man as generator, and Woman as nourisher of Life, represent the operation of the lower life elements; but Man as Reason and Woman as Intuition stand at the apex of Intellectual Evolution. Intelligence sleeps in the stone, dreams in the plant, awakens in the animal, and acts in Man. The Atom and Man represent the extremes of Evolution upon the physical plane. The individual Man and Woman represent the accumulated gains of all Evolution. The Individual Man and the Individual Woman, as the independent exponents of Reason and Intuition, represent the ascent of Intelligence through all of the Life Elements. (See *Harmonics of Evolution*).

Natural Science includes these Universal Principles and Ethical Truths which are laid down in Indian and Christian doctrine, for "no one Truth can possibly militate against another," but Science, as well as all things else, are subject to evolutionary laws; and this being true, a philosophy based upon Science must extend its scope to meet later discoveries and demonstrations.

As Jesus removed the more or less obscuring cloaks off of the underlying message of the whole Bible, making the light shine through more clearly, so the Philosophy of Individual Life

is a burst of added light, enabling the reader to see with distinctness Truths which before were hazy, and banishing Darkness, Doubt, Uncertainty and Fear.

The Great School has gone steadily forward in research, experiment and demonstration concerning Nature's finer forces, and has kept abreast of the most advanced scientific thought of the ages. It undertakes to elucidate and illustrate the correlation of Universal forces of Nature. It is a philosophy of action and introspection, a philosophy concerned with the practical and the contemplation of the ethical. It is Living and Learning and Doing. It is a Life, not a creed, essentially a philosophy of this life rather than of a life to come. It fixes upon a noble, earthly life as the gateway to the splendors of a higher life. It opens to life a perception of the order and harmony and beauty of the spiritual side of Nature.

The Philosophy of Natural Science represents the modern Masters of the Law. It stands for a later interpretation of Nature, of Life, of Love and of Duty. It is a philosophy of affirmation, self-development, self-affirmation and self-fulfillment. It is the dawning of a new day in the intellectual and ethical life of the world. Activities this side of ultimates have been too much neglected, so it enlarges upon the immediate present and points to a home of Happiness. Earth life is a privilege and not a penalty. The purpose of earth life is not to find a heaven, but to make one. Religion is not a matter of duty to God, but of duty of man to himself and to his fellowman. It allays the terrors of loneliness and death. It banishes the shadow of annihilation. It opens unmeasured possibilities of Individual Completion, Individual Love and Permanent Happiness through all planes of life.

It makes of each Individual Man and Woman a natural heir to all the beneficences of Nature and of Nature's God.

J. E. Richardson, TK., Author of Volumes II, III, IV, and V, Editor of Volume I of the Harmonic Series, Himself, a Great Master, writes:

"No greater fallacy could be suggested than to credit the author of these volumes personally with the honor of having

wrought out, from the recesses of his own brain and consciousness, the definite results here referred to. He would be most willing and happy to acknowledge such honor if he were justly entitled to it. Such, however, is not the case. To him it is sufficient honor that he has been assigned the difficult task of reducing the subject to a simple and unambiguous expression in the language of his own people."

And further:

"Nothing but the internal consciousness of a definite personal experience will ever be accepted by an intelligent Soul as proof positive of a Spiritual World or of individual Life after physical death."

"Next in importance, after this conscious experience, is what the Great School of the Masters defines as 'Rational Faith'; Natural Science holds that Faith is the 'Intuitive conviction of that which both Reason and Conscience approve.'"

"For the great majority of honest seekers after Spiritual Knowledge who have no opportunity for personal instruction and consequent demonstration—there still remains the helpful evidence of an intelligent, orderly and consistent 'Testimony' of those who have 'taken the Work, traveled in foreign countries,' and who are eager to impart as much of their treasure of knowledge as possible."

"When such 'Testimony' is offered by the 'traveler' whose sanity, intelligence and sincerity are evident, and by one whose teachings and whose life are consistently for good, it becomes the substantial basis for a 'Rational Faith' in the Testimony itself."

"Indeed, the Central Hope and Purpose of all general public work, including this modern publication, are that such impersonal teaching may become an acceptable Testimony as to those inspiring Truths—the Continuity of Life and the Constructive Principle of Nature in Individual Life."

23 THE GANTLET OF TRUTH

The greatest aspiration of every Great Master is to impart his knowledge. How to impart it has been the problem of the ages. He finds, to his sorrow, that the task of acquirement is infinitely less than the task of teaching. He finds, to his disappointment and regret, that the Truths he would impart to his fellowmen must ever and always run a gantlet which is difficult and perilous to overcome.

The Gantlet which Truth has ever run, and must continue to run throughout future ages, so far as human nature would seem to indicate, contains three distinct classes of enemies which Truth must pass, if it would continue to live.

The three most dangerous enemies of Truth are the Doubter, the deliberately Vicious, and the Ignorant.

In addition, the average religionist, regardless of creed or denomination, is so full of the things he assumes to know that he has no room whatever for anything that others may actually and truthfully know.

Universally this is the type of individual human that will most strenuously and persistently oppose the true Spirit of Human Progress and becomes an obstruction in the Gantlet of Truth.

There is another type of individual who is quite as much of an obstructionist as the most Pharisaical. This individual is found in every movement, in every age; such an individual is the small man, small in point of intelligence, and the large man, large in point of intellectual vanity. The most dangerous of all to the progress of Truth is the man who combines the characteristics of both types. This is the man whose intelligence is small and whose vanity of intelligence is large.

It seems to be almost an established rule among Mankind that the man whose intelligence (down to a certain point) is most limited is also the man whose intellectual vanity is most unlimited. The man of small and infantile intelligence is more

than likely to be the man of largest vanity and most selfish ambitions.

This is the man who is always in line for leadership among his fellows. He seeks leadership that he may enjoy the pleasures which such men enjoy from public applause and public notice. To see his name in public print means more to him than to be known as the most honest man living.

This man's egotism and vanity lead him to dislike, and hence to oppose, the real leaders among his fellows and associates. To defeat them and thereby win the place they hold by actual and deserved merit, he would resort to as dishonest and despicable methods it is possible to conceive of, if he thought these would accomplish his vain and egotistical ends.

This is not the man who could ever sink his own personality into the good of any Cause, however great or altruistic such a cause might, in principle, be. The greater and more exalted the Cause, the more overwhelming are his selfish ambitions to be at its head, and to be known as its "leader." He thereby becomes an enemy of Truth and another obstruction in the Gantlet which Truth must ever run.

There is nothing, perhaps, which raises a more impregnable wall against Truth than the smug assumption of a certain type of superiority. This type of superiority is in its essential nature not receptive to any proposal which might evidence greater knowledge or more modern discoveries of Truth than it, itself, could offer.

This unfortunate characteristic of human nature prevailed not alone in the time of Jesus, but has existed from the infancy of the human race to the present time. It is with us today, perhaps not quite so prominently, so aggressively and destructively, as during the Master's Life and Ministry in the days of Herod the King, but in strength sufficient to make hard the way of Truth.

No epoch in human history more clearly brings to our knowledge the seemingly natural tendency of the human intelligence to look upon Truth as an enemy to human progress than does that which beheld the Life and Teachings of the Master Jesus.

We might go on and on indefinitely, telling the tragic story of "the Gantlet of Truth," and we would find that history has repeated itself throughout every age, in every clime, and in every nation upon the face of the earth. Every effort the School of the Masters has ever made has been met and fought by the same class and type of enemies. Every World Movement the Masters have established and fostered throughout the history of human endeavor has had its enemies who have sought to destroy whatsoever they could not dominate and control.

From the time, in the faraway reaches of antiquity, when the Great School of the Masters first came into being, down through the civilizations of Lemuria and Atlantis, through the great World Movements known as Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism, Magianism, even down through Christianity to the present time, Truth, in running its endless Gantlet, has had to meet these same relentless enemies.

It is a profound comfort to know that the Truth which was proclaimed by the Great School of the Masters is the same Truth which has come down to us through every constructive movement from the remotest periods of human history. During all the past ages, the Great School has been preserving, accumulating and increasing its Knowledge, and handing it down to humanity in every age, through the many and various constructive movements inaugurated and fostered by it. It is this same knowledge, with all its increasing accumulations, which comes down to those of us today who can prove to the Masters that we are duly and truly prepared, worthy and well qualified to receive it and use it only for the benefit of humanity, and then pass it on to those who shall follow us and assume the same responsibilities.

These great fundamental Truths, and the knowledge of the Masters, are like a snowball started from the topmost peak of a giant mountain. At the beginning there may have been but a single great and vital Truth, but like the snowball, every evolution it has gathered added material, accumulated greater volume, weight and power, until there is no power in Nature great enough to withstand its overwhelming, dynamic energy. The time is coming, and, if we judge by the accumulating evidences, it is

not so very far distant, when the ever-increasing volume of Truth will sweep every obstruction of error before it, and will come down to the humanity of the near future, carrying with it the benediction of the Great Father, the Great Masters and the Great Universal Intelligence.

In these days of ours, as in those of the past, the world contains a good many men whose selfishness, vanity, egotism, ambitions, greed, ignorance and lack of understanding make them the natural enemies of Truth.

But, though they killed the Masters, they did not destroy the sublime Truth for which the Masters stood and for which they have stood during all the years from that faraway time to the immediate present. Truth will again succeed in running the Gantlet to the end; and it will not be killed or destroyed. Nay, verily, it will still live, and will still pave the way for human progress, for the beneficent guidance of Man through this vale of earthly trials and sorrows, even to the goal of Spiritual Knowledge and Spiritual Light and Spiritual Life.

NOTE

The Harmonic Work contains 2,570 pages. The present abridgement inadequately portrays its *true* value. Should the reader follow the entire Scientific Work in his search for Truth, he will come to feel secure in the Consciousness that Truth is always a Friend to him who honestly seeks it, and a Benefactor to him who Lives it.

The following page contains a list of the publications of the Great School of Natural Science.

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Literature of Natural Science and
the Philosophy of Individual Life

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The Struggle for Happiness and Individual Completion
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HUMANITY'S GREATEST NEED, by Hugh McCurdy Woodward, Ph.D.
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traveler's discovery in far lands of the Series' unified philos-
ophy (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1932)

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